



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Katie Stevens, Director

HOUSE BILL 278-Income Tax Subtraction Modification for Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment

DATE: January 21, 2025
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: Katie Stevens, Director, Office of Agriculture, Frederick County Government

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 278 – Income Tax Subtraction Modification for Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment. As the Director in the Office of Agriculture in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB278 a Favorable report.

House Bill 278, represents a forward-thinking approach to bolstering Maryland's agricultural industry by encouraging the adoption of innovative and sustainable technologies.

As the Director of the Frederick County Office of Agriculture, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative effects of new technologies in agricultural operations. The equipment identified in this bill—including no-till planters, nutrient management systems, and manure injection tools—plays a critical role in advancing sustainable farming practices. By incentivizing the purchase and use of these tools, House Bill 278 aligns with the state's goals for environmental stewardship and agricultural innovation.

House Bill 278 promotes sustainability by reducing soil erosion and nutrient runoff, enhancing productivity by helping farmers optimize resource use and lower costs, and supporting economic growth by encouraging reinvestment and job creation. Additionally, it drives innovation by allowing flexibility for emerging technologies in agriculture.

Frederick County's agricultural community thrives on forward-thinking policies like HB 278. By supporting this bill, we empower farmers to embrace sustainable practices and remain competitive.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 278. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a Favorable report.

Sincerely,

Katie Stevens
Director