



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 14, 2025

**To:** House Ways and Means Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE: Support of HB907 Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Alterations**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB907 Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property – Alterations. House Bill 907 modifies the property tax credit eligibility for urban agricultural properties in Maryland. The bill expands the definition of urban agricultural purposes to include indoor and outdoor crop production, livestock raising, beekeeping, composting, pollinator habitat creation, agritourism, and agricultural education. It also removes the previous size restrictions (between one-eighth of an acre and five acres) and instead defines eligible properties as those not assessed as agricultural land under existing tax laws. Additionally, the bill requires counties and municipalities that grant the tax credit to evaluate its effectiveness after three years. If a jurisdiction decides to terminate the credit, it must provide at least one year's notice and allow public comment and appeal before doing so. The bill also allows jurisdictions to prioritize renewals based on their local needs.

Urban agriculture plays a crucial role in improving food security, fostering community resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability. By broadening the definition of urban agricultural purposes HB 907 supports a holistic approach to urban farming that benefits both individuals and communities. Expanding urban agriculture offers substantial economic benefits. It supports local farmers, reduces food transportation costs, and generates employment opportunities. Additionally, community-based agriculture initiatives empower residents, strengthen local economies, and provide access to fresh, nutritious foods in areas where grocery options may be limited.

House Bill 907 is a critical measure to strengthen Maryland's commitment to urban agriculture, sustainability, and local food production. By broadening eligibility, eliminating unnecessary size restrictions, and ensuring an accountable review process, this bill supports a more resilient and equitable food system. I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 907 to ensure that urban farmers and communities across Maryland continue to benefit from these essential agricultural incentives.

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions