



Position: Favorable

Committee: Ways & Means

Testimony On: HB0907, Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property

Date: February 18, 2025

From: Danielle Young, Owner, Fat Cardinal Farm

My name is Danielle Young and my husband and I own Fat Cardinal Farm in Bowie, MD. We are current recipients of the Property Tax Credit for Urban Agriculture in Prince George's County. Our farm is a small family farm that uses sustainable agricultural practices to grow healthy food for our community. 2024 was our first full market season. I am writing today in **support of HB0907**.

Urban agriculture creates healthier communities by increasing availability of fresh, high-quality produce. Last year, we provided approximately \$5,000 of produce to Bowie residents through our stand at the Bowie Farmer's Market, a roadside stand at our house, and donations to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. Our roadside stand had sales every day it was open and our customers frequently voice their appreciation. Urban agriculture creates healthier ecosystems. Our farm partners with the PG County Soil Conservation District to implement practices to improve and conserve the health of our soil, water and air. Urban agriculture also benefits local economies. Our farm provides additional income for our family and we plan to hire our first employee in summer 2025.

The PG County Urban Agriculture Property Tax Credit influenced our decision to start our farm in 2023. The tax credit incentivized us to invest more in start-up costs so we could immediately grow on a large enough scale to qualify for the credit. Additionally, because the tax credit allows for both sales and donations to count towards the annual sales minimum, we plant and harvest more than we typically sell at each Farmer's Market because we can donate our surplus to the food pantry to help meet the tax credit minimum.

The Property Tax Credit for Urban Agriculture has been instrumental in supporting farms like ours. We understand that not many urban farms have been able to take advantage of the property tax credit and by expanding the state-enabling legislation, we hope that more jurisdictions will be able to develop tax credits that work for their farmers. Such incentives foster sustainable agricultural



practices and increase food security for residents. By continuing to support urban agricultural initiatives, we can build stronger, healthier communities for the future together.

Thank you.