



Maryland Farm Bureau

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April 1, 2026

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB 734 – Property Tax – Agricultural Use Assessment – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems**

On behalf of the nearly 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of HB 734 – Property Tax – Agricultural Use Assessment – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems. This legislation provides an important and timely adjustment to Maryland’s property tax framework by extending the approval deadline for community solar energy generating systems to qualify for the agricultural use assessment when paired with agrivoltaics.

As Maryland continues to expand its clean energy portfolio, agrivoltaic projects represent one of the most promising strategies for meeting renewable energy goals without sacrificing productive farmland. HB 734 ensures that land used for community solar projects engaging in agrivoltaic practices, such as grazing, or crop production beneath and around solar arrays, continues to be recognized as land actively used for agricultural purposes. Extending the Public Service Commission approval deadline from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, provides developers, farmers, and landowners with the predictability and runway needed to responsibly plan, finance, and construct these dual-use systems.

Without this extension, Maryland risks stalling agrivoltaic innovation and constraining participation in the state’s community solar program, particularly for rural communities and small farms that benefit most from the additional revenue and land-use flexibility. HB 734 aligns tax policy with Maryland’s climate and agricultural objectives by affirming that clean energy production and agricultural productivity can coexist on the same acres.

For these reasons, Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 734.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions