

MDFB - Support - HB547 Income Tax - Subtraction Mo

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau

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April 1, 2026

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB547 Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment**

On behalf of the over 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB547 Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment. This proposed legislation will offer a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax to those who purchase enhanced agricultural management equipment.

HB547 recognizes the critical role of modern agricultural equipment in promoting sustainable farming practices. By expanding the list of eligible enhanced agricultural management equipment, this bill ensures that Maryland farmers can invest in innovative tools that reduce environmental impacts and increase efficiency. Specifically, the bill adds equipment that the Secretary of Agriculture determines by regulation to qualify as enhanced agricultural management equipment, further broadening the scope of support for Maryland's agricultural community.

The expanded subtraction modification under HB547 provides critical financial relief to farmers who purchase and install advanced equipment designed to minimize soil disturbance, reduce nutrient runoff, and optimize nutrient applications. Examples of this equipment include no-till planters, liquid manure soil injection systems, and integrated optical sensing systems. Such tools are vital for improving soil health, protecting water quality, and promoting the long-term sustainability of Maryland's agricultural industry.

By passing HB547, the General Assembly will not only support Maryland's farmers but also advance the state's environmental goals. This legislation aligns with the Maryland Farm Bureau's mission to enhance the economic well-being of agriculture and rural communities while protecting natural resources for future generations.

Maryland Farm Bureau supports HB547 and respectfully asks for a favorable report.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions

HB0547-BT_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: UNF



House Bill 547

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: April 1, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

Tax Incentives and Local Government Autonomy

Counties enter this Session facing heightened economic uncertainty, rising costs, and growing concern about federal funding instability that directly affects local budgets and service delivery. At the same time, counties continue to absorb new or expanded responsibilities without reliable, ongoing funding, making local revenue stability more critical than ever.

Counties are eager and committed partners in promoting economic growth and creating opportunity – and prefer local autonomy in determining the best way locally. **The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) opposes state-mandated reductions in local revenue sources, but welcomes flexible, optional tools to serve and respond to local needs and community priorities.**

The General Assembly routinely considers broad or targeted tax incentives to stimulate economic growth, encourage beneficial activities, or attract and retain residents. These proposals sometimes focus exclusively on the State's tax structure, but often extend to local revenues as well.

In general, MACo stands for local self-determination. Counties, led by locally elected leaders directly accountable within the communities they serve, are best positioned to govern local affairs – ranging from land use to fiscal matters. MACo steadfastly guards local autonomy and consistently opposes one-size-fits-all policies that override local decision-making.

State tax incentives should be enacted as "local option" offerings to allow counties maximum flexibility in tailoring local policies to meet local needs and priorities. The State and its local governments already work together here, where the State routinely grants a state-level property tax credit, enabling county governments to enact their own local-option property tax credits.

MACo urges the Committee to primarily consider state income tax credits as the best means to incorporate local tax relief into a broader policy. MACo and county governments stand ready to work with state policymakers to craft flexible, optional tools to deliver broad or targeted tax incentives, but resist state-mandated changes that preclude local input.