



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 18, 2026

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB716 Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors - Private Property Access - Prohibition**

On behalf of the nearly 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of HB716 Land Surveyors and Property Line Surveyors - Private Property Access - Prohibition. This legislation provides a straightforward, common-sense safeguard by prohibiting land and property line surveyors from entering private property during deer firearms hunting season without written permission from the landowner. This simple requirement respects the rights of rural property owners while ensuring surveyors can continue to perform their work through proper communication and coordination.

This legislation reinforces the importance of Maryland's longstanding commitment to private property rights. Farmers already work closely with a variety of professional surveyors, utility contractors, assessors, and others who understand that obtaining permission before entering agricultural land is both a legal and practical necessity. Codifying the permission requirement specifically for the deer firearms season strengthens that norm at a time when safety risks are at their peak. The Farm Bureau appreciates that HB 716 strikes an appropriate balance by not restricting surveying activities outright, but instead ensuring they occur only with the landowner's clear and written consent. This approach provides the predictability that rural landowners need while maintaining the flexibility surveyors require to perform their duties effectively.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 716.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

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