



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading
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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: March 12th, 2026

BILL NUMBER: SB 849
BILL TITLE: Consumer Protection - Agricultural Equipment Warranties
MDA POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) respectfully submits this letter in support of *Senate Bill 849 - Consumer Protection - Agricultural Equipment Warranties*.

Modern agricultural operations rely on increasingly sophisticated and costly machinery to maintain productivity. Senate Bill 849 offers critical protections that will provide parity to vehicle “lemon law” and offer farmers confidence in their substantial investments into advanced and expensive equipment. While a vast majority of agricultural equipment, similar to motor vehicles, do not run into issues with faulty manufacturing defects, this bill enables farmers to collect damages and avoid extensive downtime in an extremely time-sensitive industry.

In agriculture, a mechanical failure during peak planting or harvest windows can result in devastating financial losses that extend far beyond the cost of the repair itself. By establishing a clear statutory framework for equipment warranties, this legislation ensures that Maryland producers have the same consumer protections as any other vehicle owner, safeguarding the high-capital investments necessary to keep our state’s number one industry moving forward.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Agriculture urges a favorable report on SB 849.

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