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Date: March 12, 2026
To: Members of the Senate Committee on Finance
From: Grayson Middleton
Re: SB0849 – Consumer Protection – Agricultural Equipment Warranties – **SUPPORT**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) is the trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Collectively, we contribute more than \$5.4 billion to Maryland’s economy and pay more than \$254 million in state and local taxes. SB 849 would establish critical consumer protection requirements for agricultural equipment, benefiting farmers and consumers across the State. As such, we support SB 849 and respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Our growers rely on a wide variety of equipment to maintain lawful, efficient, and productive operations. This includes fans, feeders, heating apparatus, and watering systems. Even temporary malfunctions or defects of this equipment can result in massive mortality events, as flocks are extremely susceptible to changes in temperature. This can result in a substantial loss of income for farmers.

SB 849 establishes necessary protections and recourse for Maryland’s chicken growers and agricultural community who require reliable, functional equipment for their income and animal health and welfare. Finally, it will provide our farmers with the same protections afforded to many other consumers. For these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB 849.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at middleton@dcachicken.com or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

Grayson S. Middleton
Government Affairs Manager