

**Board of County
Commissioners**

Joseph A. Vigliotti, President
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Carroll County Government

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February 27, 2026

Re: SUPPORT – House Bill 1023: Lab-Grown Meat – Prohibition

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the House Health Committee:

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners support House Bill 1023, which prohibits the sale, manufacture, distribution, or offering for sale of lab-grown meat for human consumption in Maryland and establishes civil penalties and enforcement authority for violations.

Lab-grown meat is a novel product developed through the cultivation of animal cells outside of the animal. Although federal agencies have begun implementing oversight frameworks, this technology remains new, and long-term data regarding production scaling, labeling clarity, consumer understanding, and broader agricultural impacts are still developing. As such products enter the marketplace, states have a responsibility to determine how they will be treated within their food systems.

Carroll County's economy is deeply rooted in traditional agriculture, including livestock and poultry production. These operations support local families, preserve working farmland, and contribute significantly to our regional economy. During a period of rapid technological change in food production, it is reasonable for Maryland to provide clear statutory direction.

HB 1023 establishes a clear policy standard and protects both consumers and Maryland's agricultural community from uncertainty in an evolving marketplace.

For these reasons, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1023.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

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