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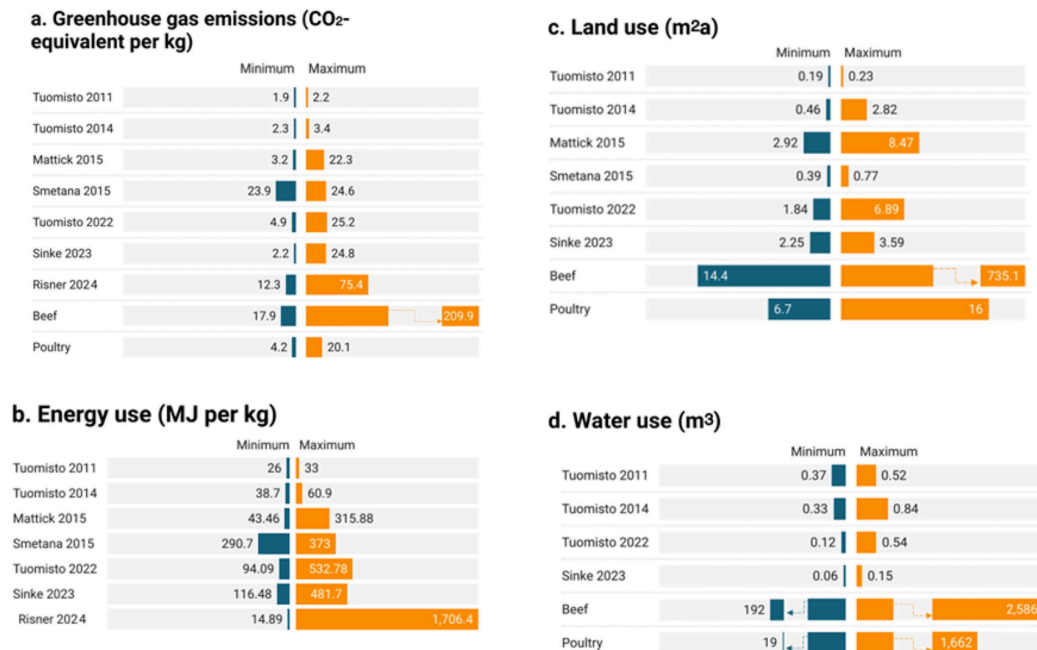
I'm writing to support HB1023, Prohibition of Lab Grown Meat, with amendments that would strengthen the enforcement provision. Maryland should join the 7 states (AL, FL, MS, MT, IN, NE, TX) and one country (Italy) that have already banned it.

Lab grown meat is a bad idea for our health, our environment, our farmers, and will put even more of a strain on our energy demand.

## Environmental and Energy impacts

A 2024 publication in Critical Reviews of Food Science Nutrition reviewed 7 studies about environmental impacts of “cultured meat” and noted, “Based on these studies, the most notable environmental impacts of CM are the energy requirements and the greenhouse gas emissions (which are largely a result of energy demand), with water use also of concern in some studies (Tuomisto and Teixeira de Mattos [Citation 2011](#); Mattick et al. [Citation 2015](#)).”

**Figure 1.** Implications of cultured meat production for (a) greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per kg), (b) energy use (MJ per kg), (c) land use (m<sup>2</sup>a), and (d) water use (m<sup>3</sup>) as calculated by existing life cycle assessment publications displayed in each graph. For each study, a minimum (best-case scenario) and a maximum (worst-case scenario) value are shown. Data for conventional beef and poultry were adapted from Poore and Nemecek ([2018](#)) (does not apply to energy use).



Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39980382/>

## Health

The first concern about lab grown meat is, there are no long term safety studies. That means Americans are the experiment (which is typically sugar-coated as being referred to as “post-market data”). We don’t know what will happen in the long term to our bodies, or if there will be unintended cellular changes. This stuff may be approved by the FDA but there is a long history of “approved” or “authorized” products having unintended and unknown harmful effects, many of which are not able to be seen until millions of Americans have ingested the product.

Lab grown meat is “ultra-processed,” using a bioreactor made to grow cells into “meat.” That process includes “growth media” and finishing agents that expose Americans to genetically modified materials, growth factors, additives, and microplastics. How will this affect our metabolic processes and our hormones? Will the genetically modified components create any unintended proteins?

Finally, there is simply no way that artificial food will match the nutritional value of natural food. Time and time again scientists believe they can outsmart God or Mother Nature and make something better. They are always wrong. In the case of lab grown meat, we are creating a literal frankenstein that needs to be pieced together with scientifically determined fat-to-meat ratios, and synthetically “brought to life” with additives, coloring, and fortified nutrients.

## Farmers

It’s pretty clear that lab-grown meat will negatively affect those trying to make a living raising and selling real food. Prohibiting the sale of fake meat in our state will support our local economy and protect our farmers.

## Amendments

I would strongly encourage this bill to have more “teeth” so to speak, by removing the cap and specifying that the fine would be assessed *per violation*, or *per customer*. Any company selling lab grown meat could easily look at a \$5,000 fine as the cost of doing business in Maryland, and not take this law seriously.

It’s also unclear to me how these violations will be reported, and who will enforce this? Will consumers call the Attorney General’s office? Will the consumer or a state/county employee go to the courthouse to file for a fine?