



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** House Health Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** **Support of HB1023 Lab-Grown Meat - Prohibition**

On behalf of the over 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit this written testimony in support of HB1023 Lab-Grown Meat - Prohibition. This legislation that prohibits the sale, distribution, manufacturing, and offering for sale of lab-grown meat for human consumption in the State of Maryland.

HB 1023 establishes clear statutory definitions and protections by creating a new subtitle under the Health-General Article that restricts the commercialization of cell-cultured animal tissue products. The bill provides enforcement authority, including civil penalties and product seizure for violative products, and would take effect October 1, 2026.

As the state's largest grassroots agricultural organization, MDFB strongly supports policies that:

- Protect the integrity of Maryland's agricultural economy, particularly the livestock and poultry sectors that contribute billions in economic activity, support rural communities, and sustain thousands of jobs.
- Ensure transparency and consumer trust in food systems by preventing market confusion between naturally raised meat and lab-engineered alternatives.
- Promote animal agriculture as an essential component of Maryland's food security, rural heritage, and environmental stewardship efforts.

Maryland's livestock producers operate under rigorous animal health, environmental, and food safety standards. These producers rely on a fair marketplace that does not blur definitions or create competitive disadvantages through emerging, lab-engineered products that lack the same regulatory history, production transparency, and long-term public-health research.

HB 1023 takes a prudent approach by ensuring that Maryland consumers have clarity in the marketplace and that the state's agricultural sector is not undercut by unregulated technological substitutes marketed as traditional meat.

For these reasons, Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully urges a Favorable Report on HB 1023.

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions*