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**Testimony in SUPPORT  
HB1223- Farmers Markets- Street Food Vending Zones- Requirements PG 411-26**

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee,

I am the Maryland Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network and we advocate for state policy that supports clean energy, climate action, and other relevant policies. However, I am testifying today in my personal capacity.

My husband works for [Crossroads Community Food Network](#), an organization based in Takoma Park, Maryland that works every day to improve food security, access to fresh food, and grow the local food economy in our area. Crossroads Community Food Network, it's associated farmer's market, and our home are located less than 2 miles away from the location where Del. Taveras is working so diligently to develop the regulations and infrastructure for a Langley Park Farmers Market to succeed.

Crossroads Community Food Network has built a very successful model that integrates technical support for the most nascent small businesses entrepreneurs, a discounted model for them to use a community kitchen to operate their businesses, and a farmers market to ensure they have a dedicated customer base to support their operations. Through this model they are supporting community members to pursue their passions, reconnect with their cultural foods, and develop a local economy that is truly grassroots and community oriented.

There is no reason that we should have such a thriving market in our community and that another, very similar, very diverse, very entrepreneurial community should not be able to create a similar community hub because we are on opposite sides of a line that divides counties.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1223.