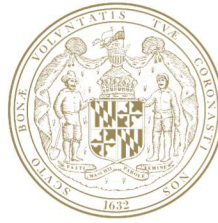


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST  
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER  
Co-CHAIR



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SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
Chair, Ways & Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 1554 Sales and Use Tax - Electricity for Agriculture Purposes - Study and Report.**

This bill requires the Comptroller, with consultation from the Public Service Commission and PJM, to study exempting electricity used for agricultural activities such as irrigation, livestock, and crop production from Maryland's sales and use tax and report the fiscal impact to the General Assembly. For rural communities, this study could help facilitate the reduction of operational costs for farmers, helping keep farms financially viable and stabilizing local agricultural economies.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 1554 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist  
*Co-Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler  
*Co-Chair*