



CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 13, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Jhenelle K. Wilkins
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for House Bill 547 – Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment

Dear Chair Wilkins and Vice Chair Feldmark:

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) writes in **strong support of House Bill 547 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment** and respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report.

This legislation updates the state's income tax subtraction for enhanced agricultural management equipment by expanding eligible equipment types to include those the Secretary of Agriculture determines by regulation to qualify. By modernizing the statutory definition, the bill supports a wider range of innovative and sustainable farming technologies that promote efficient agricultural practices across all scales and operations of agriculture.

Agriculture remains a vital economic and cultural asset within Calvert County. Many of our farmers face rising input costs and increasing regulatory and environmental challenges. Encouraging the use of advanced agricultural management equipment—such as nutrient application systems, no-till planters and manure injection technologies—can improve soil conservation, reduce nutrient runoff, boost crop productivity and strengthen farm viability. These outcomes support environmental stewardship, productive land use and long-term sustainability of our local agricultural sector. The bill potentially mitigates financial risk for farmers investing in innovative technologies and equipment.

The flexibility provided in House Bill 547 to include new qualifying equipment by regulation will ensure that the tax incentive remains responsive to evolving technologies that benefit both producers and natural resources. By making cutting-edge equipment more financially accessible, this bill incentivizes farmers to adopt best practices that contribute to environmental protection and economic resiliency across rural and urban farms in Maryland. This offers a statewide solution that benefits Maryland's diverse agricultural community, including farmers who must often purchase equipment outside their home counties. By allowing the eligible

equipment list to evolve alongside technology, the bill supports adaptive management and ensures that programs designed to assist agriculture remain effective over time.

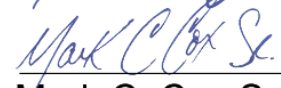
For these reasons, the BOCC respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 547. We appreciate the General Assembly's thoughtful consideration of this important agricultural policy.

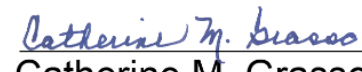
Thank you for your leadership and attention to the needs of Maryland's farming communities. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Economic Development Director Julie Oberg at 410-535-1600, ext. 2485.

Sincerely,

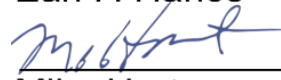
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