



Bill #	SB432
Position	SUPPORT

March 4, 2020

Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair and Members of the Committee—

With local the farms facing declining revenues and development pressure, we must take innovative—yet reasonable—actions to provide new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Agritourism is a primary means of providing new revenue opportunities for our farms.

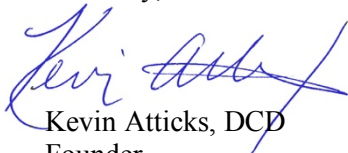
The most endearing and practical structures on a farm are typically original barns. In many parts of the state, these barns are transformed into beautiful tasting rooms, farm markets and hosts to various agritourism operations. In four counties, these barns are exempted from specific onerous and prohibitively expensive building code requirements. In these counties, agritourism operations are flourishing.

We urge your support for SB432, which adds Charles County to the list of jurisdictions in which farm structures used for agritourism activities with an occupancy under 200 are exempted from certain requirements generally applied to commercial buildings.

With your support, Charles County can develop a thriving agritourism industry, which will not only support farms, but also the broader communities in which they reside.

We urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin Atticks, DCD
Founder

*Cultivating an environment where value-added agricultural producers,
startups, operators and growers innovate and thrive.*