



Amber Fields

Malting & Brewing

Hi, my name is Greg Clabaugh, and I would like to speak on behalf of House Bill 156. I am a fifth generation Dairy and Grain farmer from Frederick county, and I am also the owner of Amber Fields Malting & Brewing, Maryland's first Commercial malting facility. We have been planting cover crops on the family farm for well over a century. Twenty years ago I decided to explore the possibility of malting and brewing with that grain. In the spring of 2011 we introduced Amber Fields Best Bitter, the first commercially produced beer in over a century to use grain raised and malted in our state. It can be done! While growing quality is not a slam dunk, we are confident that it can be another resource for Maryland's farmers.

The past two years have been extremely challenging for small grain production. The extremely wet weather has prevented crops from being harvested, and then from being planted. Many acres that did get in the ground, ended up being drowned out. This past spring, in order to have rye to malt, I had to remove acres from the cover crop program. While I can't speak for anyone else, this Bill would have been a huge benefit to me. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully request you give House Bill 156 a favorable report.

Greg Clabaugh

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