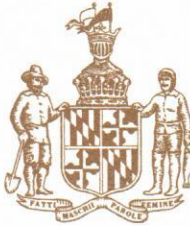


JASON C. GALLION  
Legislative District 35  
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



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February 6th, 2020

The Honorable Dolores Kelley, Chair and Members

Senate Finance Committee

Re: Senate Bill SB 188 – Public Health – Misbranded Food – Meat Products

Position: Support

Madam Chair and Finance Committee Members:

SB 188 is a truth in labeling bill that relates to meat products. If a label identifies the product as a meat or meat product and the product contains animal tissue cultured from animal cells outside the animal from which the tissue is derived or is made from plants or insects it would be considered misbranded.

The Maryland Wholesome Meat Act defines “meat” as the edible part of the muscle of livestock that is skeletal or which is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart, or esophagus, with or without the accompanying or overlying fat, and the portions of bone, skin, nerve, and blood vessels that normally accompany the muscle tissue.

This bill is not intended to ban these products but rather make it clear to consumers that these products are very different when it comes to ingredients and nutrition. In many cases these fake meat products aren't coming from the ground but rather being created in factories and are highly processed.

13 states have introduced and passed similar legislation, in fact the European Union passed a proposal that would prevent non-meat products from bearing labels associated with meat. In addition to plant based fake meat, this legislation would also prevent laboratory grown fake meat from animal cells to be labeled meat.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this proposed legislation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Gallion".

Senator Jason Gallion