

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY  
*People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity*

March 23, 2021

Senator and Committee Chair Guy Guzzone  
Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB0497, Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Repeal of Repayment Requirement

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

We are writing in support of HB0497, the Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Repeal of Repayment Requirement.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB0497. Its passage will help strengthen the local food economy, one of the strategies in the 2019 Sustainability Plan. It is important for racial equity because it will reduce the barrier to entry into urban agriculture for those with limited capital.

We urge the Committee to support HB0497.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins  
Mia Blom  
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Regina Boyce