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Date: February 21, 2022
To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 852 – Corporations & Associations – Annual Reports – Filing Fees - **SUPPORT**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 852 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 852 would eliminate the filing fee for family farms for the annual report that is required by the Department of Assessments and Taxations. This fee is currently \$100.

While \$100 does not seem like a huge fee, for family farmers currently struggling with rising inflation and input costs, this fee could go a long way. The cost of fertilizer has more than doubled from last year; gas prices are up double digits; propane and electricity costs have risen by 20-30%.

The bill does not exempt the reporting from being completed – that will still be turned in. But it does offer a small relief for those who are raising the food that is on our plates every day.

We urge a **favorable** vote on HB 852.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.