



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 4, 2022

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 1085 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass and Thermal Biomass Systems**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1085, legislation that authorizes thermal biomass systems, for purposes of the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), to use food waste, qualifying biomass (including Silvicultural products and natural wood waste), or animal manure as a source of fuel, regardless of the relative mix of those fuel sources. Other eligibility requirements related to thermal biomass systems and their fuel components are unchanged.

As the state moves towards more and more renewable energy generation, utilizing biomass to generate energy not only utilizes waste products, but captures the methane uses it instead of just letting it go into the atmosphere. With many of the paper mills shutting down, the need for a new use of wood products is needed. Decoupling woody biomass from poultry litter will allow products around the state to be utilized more efficiently.

## **Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:**

- We support energy generation from all agricultural residues and biproducts to be considered value-added production on a farm.
- We support initiatives to generate heat & electricity from timber resources.

## **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1085 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

*For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396*