

ELIZABETH "SUSIE" PROCTOR
Legislative District 27A
Prince George's and Charles Counties

Appropriations Committee



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TESTIMONY – HB 646

***TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND –
FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION***

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 11, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Fellow Committee Members. I am Delegate Susie Proctor and I represent District 27A, an area that includes both Prince George's and Charles Counties.

House Bill 646 is proposed legislation that requires the Governor to make a yearly appropriation of \$900,000 from the Cigarette Restitution Fund to the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to fund the work of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission serves Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's counties providing a myriad of resources to the farming community. SMADC works to connect local farmers to consumers and provides support, grants, and

promotional assistance to help the Southern Maryland farming community grow and thrive.

The consistent yearly allocation provided by this legislation would provide SMADC a dependable source of funding that would allow the organization to grow, multiply their efforts and to sustain the rich agricultural history of Southern Maryland in perpetuity.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of House Bill 646.