



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 30, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 229 - Environment – On-Farm Composting Facilities – Permit Exemption**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 229, as amended, legislation that requires the MDE to adopt regulations to exempt an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit if the on-farm composting facility uses 40,000 square feet or less in support of food scrap composting and meets any other condition for a permit exemption specified in regulations. The amendments further defined the off-farm materials that are allowed and how they are to be incorporated.

Food waste is a great source of organic matter and organic fertilizer. Allowing farmers to incorporate food scraps into their existing composting operation will not allow Maryland to divert thousands of tons of food waste from the landfills, but also increase the composted organic matter added back to the farm field. This would be a win, win for Maryland citizens and farmers.

## **Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:**

- We support the right for Maryland farmers to make and process mulch and compost from both on and off the farm sources.

## **MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 229 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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