



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



March 6, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for SB0074

We are writing to wholeheartedly express our enthusiastic support for SB0074, which designates the Persimmon as the official state fruit of Maryland. As a native Maryland varietal, the Persimmon has played an integral role in our state's history, culture, and well-being.

The Persimmon has been intertwined with Maryland's story since time immemorial. From the Indigenous Peoples who first inhabited this land, to settlers, enslaved individuals, and the diverse array of international immigrants who now call Maryland home, the Persimmon has nourished and sustained generations. Its presence is a testament to our shared agricultural heritage.

Additionally, these native varietals foster environmental stewardship by encouraging reforestation efforts and provide a source of food in underserved communities where fresh produce is scarce. Planting Persimmon trees in community spaces, we empower residents to access wholesome food and improve their well-being.

The Persimmon's hues, ranging from deep orange to scarlet, perfectly complement Maryland's existing state symbols. Just as our flag, bird, steamed crab, butterfly, and Old Bay spice evoke pride, the Persimmon's colors resonate with our collective identity.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 74 with unwavering enthusiasm. Let the Persimmon symbolize our commitment to nature, health, and unity. Together, we can cultivate a stronger, more vibrant Maryland—one where the Persimmon thrives alongside our shared dreams.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mendoza

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PGCMA President

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