



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-922-3426 | www.mdfarmbureau.com

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: **Support of HB0447 Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation**

On behalf of our nearly 9,500 Farm Bureau families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony supporting HB0447. This bill would allow certain individuals to claim a credit against the state income tax if an antlerless deer is harvested and donated to certain charitable organizations.

According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Maryland farmers face up to 10 million dollars in estimated economic loss from wildlife damage. Of this economic loss, 77% of the damage is caused by deer. Farm families in Maryland are more often than not hunters who look to manage and maintain their land respectfully. Our farmers support the idea of tax credit opportunities that incentivize hunting deer along with donating to a respective group that is sure to benefit from such donation. This bill can alleviate some of the taxes incurred on family farms and encourage donations of deer meat to charitable venison. Expanding these tax credit opportunities is important to farmers and is a step towards securing agricultural viability in Maryland.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We support the “Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry” program and support an increase in state funding or a tax credit for the program.

The following actions will decrease crop damage from deer, and we support immediate enactment: A state tax credit for each deer donated to a food bank or other food donation non-profit under a crop damage permit.

Maryland Farm Bureau supports HB0447.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough at 443-878-4045 with any questions