



February 20, 2018

The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Rules Committee
Senate Meeting Room H-124, State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 1152 – Public Safety – Agritourism – Permit Exemption – **Support**

Dear Senator Klausmeier:

SB 1152 adds Carroll County to a list of Counties that allow a Permit Exemption for Agritourism and exempts a farm building from a change of use when becoming a place of agritourism.

SB 1152 will ease the burden on farms diversifying their business to include tourism. It will allow current businesses to grow and encourage new agritourism. Agriculture is a large and changing business in Carroll County. Adding Carroll County to a list of counties that already allow for these exceptions will allow new businesses to flourish and the local economy to grow.

The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce supports this bill. We believe SB 1152 is a step in the right direction towards fostering a more attractive climate for agribusiness in our county.

Carroll County is at a critical juncture where more and more farms are dealing with succession matters and new business models. Agritourism in Carroll County is an exciting prospect for the many farm owners in the County. In supporting this bill, we are making new, local, and dynamic a better chance to succeed. Moreover, these conditions have already been successfully implemented in other counties, so we consider the risk of unforeseen consequences low.

We therefore ask that your committee consider the positive impact of SB 1152 and give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Haven Shoemaker

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