Date: Feb. 7, 2017
Re: Support for SB 416 and HB 472

On behalf of Future Harvest CASA’s 700 members, I would like to register support for SB 416 and HB 472: Tax Credit for Farm Food Donations. This is win-win, common-sense policy, where farmers can help feed our state’s hungry and receive tax credit for doing so – just like any charitable giving.

Senator Middleton and Delegate Jameson have reintroduced the tax credit bill to run a pilot program to test how best to incentivize farmers to donate farm food in Maryland - think “surplus”, the “ugly seconds”, etc. that are still perfectly edible, just not going to make it to market. Farmers will receive a 50% of wholesale value tax credit on their foods, up to $5000 per year. It is a three-year pilot in the five counties of Southern Maryland (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s) and Montgomery county, with potential to expand to other counties as the program is tested.

Many of our farmers want to do the right thing, but are busy just making ends meet. This bill gives them a market for difficult-to-sell produce as well as smooths the way for their charitable giving. We give this bill our full support.

Dena Leibman
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Executive Director, Future Harvest CASA