



March 2, 2021

The Honorable Kathryn A. Fry Hester  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
James Senate Office Building, Room 304  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 0723, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Dear Senator Hester:

On behalf of the [Food and Regional Agriculture Member \(FARM\) Ad Hoc Committee](#) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to offer our support for SB 0723, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council. As the association of local governments in Metropolitan Washington, COG supports measures that will increase food security and food system resiliency.

COG's 2021 Legislative Priorities and the FARM Committee support measures that will increase food security and food system resiliency. Establishing the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council will address the food insecurity crisis exacerbated by the pandemic, develop recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the food system, and create a plan to increase the production and procurement of Maryland-certified food.

Throughout the pandemic, we have seen the value and need for coordination to response to the food security crisis, locally, statewide, and regionally. We believe that a Maryland Food System Resiliency Council would further support regional efforts to increase food system resiliency. We look forward to the creation of the Council and the opportunity to work together to combat food insecurity.

Please contact Lindsay Smith, COG's Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator at (202) 962-3309 or [lsmith@mwcog.org](mailto:lsmith@mwcog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mary Cheh in black ink.

Mary Cheh  
Chair, FARM Committee  
District of Columbia

Handwritten signature of Craig Rice in black ink.

Craig Rice  
Vice Chair, FARM Committee  
Montgomery County

Handwritten signature of Jon Stehle in black ink.

Jon Stehle  
Vice Chair, FARM Committee  
City of Fairfax

cc: House Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Sponsor HB 0831