

JACK BAILEY  
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Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and to request continued funding for SMADC in the state's operating and capital budgets.

As the Senate representative on SMADC's board, I have seen firsthand what an important resource SMADC is to the agricultural community in Southern Maryland. Their work in supporting farmers, including through equipment rentals, grants to farmers, workshops, and assistance navigating regulatory burdens is essential to the continued success of farming in Southern Maryland.

SMADC has received both operating funding from the Cigarette Restitution Fund and capital funding for agricultural land preservation in previous budgets. The operating funding is critical to SMADC, as it goes towards their Administrative and Programmatic Budget. Funding for SMADC from the Cigarette Restitution Fund has been promised until at least Fiscal Year 2025, and I hope that this commitment will continue to be honored. This funding has been vital in SMADC's work to move the region towards alternatives to tobacco farming. The capital funding for land preservation is also important to help preserve Southern Maryland's rural heritage as SMADC works towards their land preservation goals.

I believe that SMADC is worthy of the continued financial support of the state. Southern Maryland is known for its agricultural heritage, and this investment in our farmers will benefit the Southern Maryland region and the state as a whole by helping to ensure that farming in our region can remain economically viable. You have been a strong supporter of Maryland's farmers and I know you have worked to help Maryland's agricultural economy grow. Continued funding for SMADC will contribute to this goal.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey