



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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For Immediate Release
June 16, 2010

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Farmers and concerned citizens who have had enough of the negative rhetoric surrounding the Chesapeake Bay clean-up initiatives have signed a petition advising Governor Martin O'Malley to resist the sensationalized misinformation campaign being run by many environmental advocates.

"Maryland farmers are fed up and frustrated at the misinformation intentionally promulgated by certain environmental advocates to make agriculture the scapegoat for ALL that's wrong with the Bay," explains Patricia Langenfelder, Maryland Farm Bureau's President. "This finger-pointing totally ignores the great efforts that our family farms have been making to successfully reduce the amount of nutrients leaving the fields through the implementation of Best Management Practices and regulated nutrient management plans. Failure of environmental groups to acknowledge the improvements made by the agriculture segment of the watershed and to constantly bash the farm community has led us to issue this petition."

Over the last 7 days, more than 200 farmers and concerned citizens from across the state have asked to be listed as supporters of the petition. "Given how busy farmers are in the field right now, the fact that this many have taken the time to read and support the petition demonstrates the high level of frustration that is out there," Langenfelder said. "We could have collected many times this number of signatures, but we wanted to convey our message to the Governor and the public as quickly as possible."

The petition stresses the success of Maryland farmers in bay restoration efforts, calls attention to the fact that there are other sectors that have made much less progress, emphasizes the positive work of poultry farmers and poultry companies and reminds readers that nutrients from manure, poultry litter or other sources are absolutely necessary to grow crops and livestock to feed the world.

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