



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
420 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, House Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
101 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT: Ho. Co. 31-20 – Ho. Co. Living Farm Heritage Museum James Clark Main Display Building

Dear Senate Chair Lam and House Chair Atterbeary,

I am proud to express my support for Ho. Co. 31-20, which would establish funding for the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club to complete the James Clark Main Display Building at the Living Farm Heritage Museum.

Founded in 1995, the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club's helps preserve our community's agricultural way of life. The club's Living Farm Heritage Museum lets visitors "walk through time," as they see demonstrations of agricultural and domestic life changes from the 1600s to the 1960s. They can experience seasonal farm practices through the museum's "annual growing season" concept. The final phase of construction for the James Clark Main Display Building will contain 20,000 square feet of meeting rooms, offices, lobby space, and a large display area for agricultural artifacts. This site will also serve as the new home for the Maryland State Dairy Shrine, founded in 1963 to recognize our state's dairy industry's legacy and history.

Howard County has 293 farms, including two dairy farms that sit on a combined 37,475 acres. The completion of this multi-phase capital construction project will allow the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club to celebrate the county's rich agricultural roots and a key agricultural industry for the state. It will appropriately honor the legacy of former Maryland State President Clark, a son of Howard County, who contributed so much to the open space and agricultural preservation programs that we appreciate and enjoy today.

I urge your support for Ho. Co. 31-20.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive