

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner  
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

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February 26, 2019

Senator Jack Bailey  
James Senate Office Building, Room 402  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 290 - Public Health - Cottage Food Products – Definition  
Letter of Support and to request amendment Hearing in Finance Committee –  
February 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Senator Bailey:

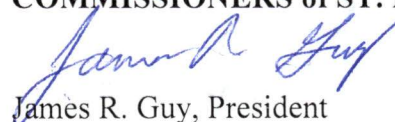
The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support Senate Bill 290. This legislation alters the definition of "cottage food product" to include nonhazardous food, as specified in regulations adopted by the Maryland Department of Health, that is sold in the State in accordance with certain provisions of law and regulations adopted by the Department to retail food stores, including a grocery store, or food cooperatives.

We also request you consider amending Page 2, Line 4, to increase the annual revenues from the sale of cottage food products in an amount not exceeding \$25,000 to \$40,000 which is consistent with the Maryland On Farm Home Processing License.

The cottage food provisions in the Maryland Department of Health Code are a stepping stone for many entrepreneurs. Through our local farmers markets, we have seen individuals start as a cottage food business out of their home and expand into successful value added businesses.

We appreciate your support of this legislation and believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
**COMMISSIONERS of ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

  
James R. Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
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Page 2

Senator Jack Bailey

February 26, 2019

Cc: Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Gerald Clark  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd Morgan  
Commissioner John O'Connor  
Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett, County Administrator  
David Weiskopf, County Attorney  
Chris Kaselemis, Director, DED