

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

February 26, 2019

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 527 - Public Health - Cottage Food Products – Definition - Letter of Support and to request amendment Hearing in Health and Government Operations Committee – February 27, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support House Bill 527. 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 5, 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

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Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
February 26, 2019

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
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