



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 17, 2015

The Honorable Mel R. Franklin  
Chairman  
Prince George's County Council  
County Administration Building  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Chairman Franklin:

Enclosed for the County Council's consideration is legislation amending certain definitions and enforcement procedures in Subtitle 12. Health, Food Service Facilities, to comply with recent changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.15.03 regarding low priority food service facilities and to add certain definitions and clarify language for chronic offenders, food service manager certifications and temporary event procedures.

COMAR no longer defines facilities that carry non-potentially hazardous prepackaged snacks as food facilities; consequently, these facilities are no longer required to be inspected. The proposed change to the County Code clarifies this by incorporating the State of Maryland's revised definition of a food facility. This change allows the County to adapt a risk-based approach and focus its enforcement efforts on those food facilities/operations that require more inspections. The proposed legislation also increases the penalty for operating without a permit from \$300 to \$1,000 for each offense. The current \$300 fine is easily affordable for facility owners and many opt to pay the fine instead of complying with regulations.

The County Council's favorable consideration of this legislation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office or Pamela Creekmur, Health Officer, at (301) 883-7834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rushern L. Baker, III".

Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

Enclosures