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Date: September 28, 2021

To: Jacqueline W. Brown, Director  
Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee

From: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC  
Executive Director

Re: Comments to CB-68-2021

Please find comments to CB-68-2021 for consideration.

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District has reviewed CB-68-2021 (DR-1) and supports the inclusion of limited keeping of fowl in the expanded definition of urban farms. Eggs can be a value-added product that may support the economic development of urban farms. In addition, farm fowl provide an excellent food education opportunity for residents living near urban farms. We would like to offer the following clarification and comments:

1. Line 17 mentions chicken coops or lofts. There are a variety of housing structures, both stationary and mobile, that chickens and other fowl may use. We suggest specific definitions for what a housing structure may include. We suggest consulting with [UMD Extension's Backyard Poultry Program](#) for guidance.
2. Footnote 143 (B) mentions a permit. We assume this is a license similar to an animal holding facility license issued by the DoE - Animal Control Division.
3. Footnote 143 (D)(i) mentions building permits. Our current understanding is that a shed less than 150 sq ft on residential lots is exempt from building permits. Would this hold true for chicken coops, lofts, and tractors (specialized moveable housing/grazing structures)?
4. Footnote 143 (G) mentions permit application to Animal Control Commission. Is this referring to DoE - Animal Control Division?
5. Footnote 143 (A-J) It is unclear the responsible agency for enforcement and the penalties for non-compliance.

I hope these comments are helpful. Please contact me if you need additional information or have any questions.