

(Attachment C.)



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 6, 2010

Montgomery County Delegation  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Montgomery County Delegation Members:

RE:MC8-11 Leghold and Body Gripping Traps

Please accept this letter as the written testimony on behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) in support for MC 8-11 Leghold and Body Gripping Traps Prohibition as currently drafted.

The AAC is aware of the events surrounding this legislation and we are concerned that members of the Delegation may not have all of the facts. Leghold and Body Gripping Traps represent important tools that property owners including farmers need to manage wildlife. The AAC believes the management of wildlife is truly needed and that property owners including farmers should have access to the means necessary to reduce the population of wildlife that threaten life, property, and their livelihood.

These tools are needed to manage ground hogs, foxes, beavers, coyotes and other fur-bearing wildlife that damage property and kill livestock. The Montgomery County Farm Bureau endorsed a Policy Resolution for 2011 that reads as follows:

*Any person issued a Maryland Furbearer Permit may use the Best Management Tools under the Best Management Guidelines as established by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for capture of fur-bearing wildlife.*

*Montgomery County Farm Bureau supports the inherent right of land owners to control wildlife on private property. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources should not impose new restrictions to manage wildlife on private property.*

This Policy Resolution is currently being considered for adoption by the Maryland Farm Bureau at its annual convention in Ocean City this week and once it is adopted, it will represent new statewide policy surrounding Capture-Control of Wildlife.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee thanks the Delegation for this opportunity to present our views on MC 8-11 and we encourage you to support it as currently drafted. We also encourage you to support the Montgomery County Farm Bureau by opposing any amendments that will reduce a property owner's ability to manage wildlife on private property.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer, Chairman