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March 11, 2019

Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1503, HD2 Relating to Agriculture (Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project)

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1503, HD2.

For about a year, our Prosecuting Attorney's office has had an investigator working on agricultural crimes, and we have received positive comments from the agriculture community about his work. The preamble of this bill does a good job of explaining the vulnerabilities agriculture has to theft and vandalism, and our news media has documented farmers who have gone out of business because of their losses.

In order to continue the program, state funding is both desirable and appropriate. I hope you will act favorably on HB 1503, HD2, and include adequate funding in both the bill and in your budget request to WAM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR