

CHAO WU, PHD
Legislative District 9A
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

To:

The Honorable Brooke Leslie Rollins

Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mr. Malcom Shorter, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA

Ms. Yeshi Abebe, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA

Email: reorganization@usda.gov

August 31, 2025

Petition to keep USDA BARC in Maryland

We, the undersigned, 19 Maryland State Legislators and more than 300 residents across Maryland, are writing to express our grave concern and strong opposition to the proposed reorganization plan that would lead to the closure and relocation of the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). With a proud history spanning over 115 years, BARC stands as the world's largest and most critical agricultural research institution, providing invaluable scientific contributions that secure our nation's food supply and drive agricultural innovation.

The proposed relocation threatens to dismantle a century of accumulated expertise, infrastructure, and institutional knowledge. Moving BARC would disrupt ongoing critical research projects and jeopardize the careers of hundreds of dedicated scientists and staff who have made Maryland their home. The economic and social fabric of our local community, built around this center of excellence, would be severely damaged.

We urge the USDA to reconsider this plan and to recognize the irreplaceable value of keeping BARC intact and operational in its current location. Preserving BARC in Maryland is not just a matter of convenience; it is a matter of national importance. It ensures the continuity of vital research, protects a massive public investment, and honors the legacy of scientific excellence that has long defined USDA's mission.

We call on you to listen to the voices of stakeholders, including the employees who are the heart of this institution, and to halt any plans that would undermine the mission and future of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

The stability, pride and prosperity of research for our nation's agriculture community lie in your hand and we urge you to keep them where they are now.

Sincerely,

Chao Wu, PhD



Maryland State Delegate, District 9A (Howard and Montgomery Counties)

Exhibit: Co-signers for the petition:

Members of Maryland General Assembly

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Senator Cory McCray
Senator Ron Watson
Senator Alonzo Washington

Delegate Chao Wu
Delegate Aletheia McCaskill
Delegate Gary Simmons
Delegate Kris Fair
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Delegate Kym Taylor
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Delegate Greg Wims
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
Delegate Joe Vogel
Delegate CT Wilson
Delegate Jared Solomon (District 18)

Community Members

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Xuhui Zhao
Yan Zhang
Ping Geng
Mengling Yang
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Rose Li
Qiang HUANG
Zilin Zhou
Ruibo Han
Yixin Qiu
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Faya wang
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Ligang Chen
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Fay tang
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chung-chi cha
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Cixin Wang
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Cixin wang
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Kathy Bartolomeo
Omar khan
Rebecca H Mayo
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Brooks Boliek
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