



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lt. Governor

KENNETH C. HOLT
Secretary

TONY REED
Deputy Secretary

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators and Delegates:

This report is intended to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Housing and Community Development to detail certain food desert activity under the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program (NBW) for the 2017 reporting year, pursuant to Chapter 228 of the 2014 Laws of Maryland.

The food desert designation was created in 2014 to allow NBW to finance food projects in Priority Funding Areas, to help ensure easy access to healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. To receive a food desert designation under this program, a local government must submit an application for inclusion. To date, there have been no such applications from any political subdivision of the state of Maryland. As there are no designated food deserts, there are no designated food desert projects to report upon.



Subsequent legislation in the 2016 General Assembly session granted NBW the authority to finance projects in Priority Funding Areas, thereby rendering the food desert designation itself obsolete. We do not anticipate any future applications for a food desert designation. The Department will continue to make financing available through NBW to businesses located within Priority Funding Areas that provide fresh food retail in underserved communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Michael Haloskey, the Department's Director of Business Lending at (301) 429-7523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth C. Holt".

Kenneth C. Holt
Secretary

cc: The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr, President, Maryland Senate
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
Terry A. Garraty, Department of Budget & Management
John Maneval, Department of Housing and Community Development
Carol Gilbert, Department of Housing and Community Development

KCH/jh