

**FY 2019 BUDGET TESTIMONY  
MARYLAND FOOD CENTER AUTHORITY  
DR. DONALD J. DARNALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Sub-Committee  
James E. DeGrange, Sr., Chair  
February 2, 2018

Education and Economic Development Sub-Committee  
Adrienne A. Jones, Chair  
February 12, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Sub-Committee today as you review the Maryland Food Center Authority's (MFCA) non-appropriated budget for informational purposes. The MFCA would like to thank our assigned DLS analyst, Ms. Zimmerman, for her thorough analysis.

The MFCA is dedicated to combining the very best in public and private efforts in planning and developing regional food industry facilities throughout Maryland. New and revitalized ventures under the MFCA's jurisdiction continue to generate employment and economic benefits throughout the State of Maryland. The MFCA is also continually being recognized by industry associations for its proactive involvement in the food industry.

MFCA would like to thank the sub-committee for the opportunity to present this testimony and is available to answer any additional questions.

Thank you.

**MFCA should comment on the anticipated timeline for completing the renovation of the existing space and beginning the second phase of work on the building expansion.**

The redevelopment of the Maryland Market Center – Site A, formerly known as the Maryland Wholesale Seafood Market, will be completed in phases.

Phase I of the Maryland Market Center – Site A consists of the redevelopment of eight vacant units which will house the relocated seafood tenants from other areas of the existing market. Phase I is currently under competitive bid with a bid opening date of January 31, 2018. The lowest, responsible, responsive bid will commence construction approximately 30 days after bid opening. The construction is anticipated to be completed within 120 days after the construction start date.

Phase II of the project consists of the redevelopment of twelve vacant units in the “non-seafood” section of the market and the renovation of the exterior of the existing market. MFCA plans to offer this project by competitive bid in approximately July 2018 with an estimated completion date of December 31, 2018.

Once the Maryland Market Center – Site A is fully leased, Phase III of the redevelopment project will commence with the expansion of the existing building. Since financing for the building expansion will be contingent upon the successful marketing and leasing of the Maryland Market Center – Site A, the start date of this project is not easily approximated. The MFCA will work diligently to lease the existing building and, once full, Phase III will commence.