



February 17, 2017

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 155 – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Easement Termination – Support**

Dear Delegate Barve:

House Bill 155 changes the process for considering the termination of easements for those contracts signed prior to 2004. Under current law all easements purchased by the state after October 1, 2004 are perpetual and not eligible for termination. Easements purchased prior to 2004 included contract language that allows the landowner to seek termination of the easement at current day value. This bill requires that any termination request first be considered by the local government. The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Board will only consider the termination if the local government recommends approval of the request. The Board will evaluate whether any type of farming can be profitably conducted on the land. If the Board agrees that profitable farming is no longer possible and is not being conducted on nearby farms, it may approve the application for termination. The landowner may then purchase the easement at current day value based on two appraisals conducted by the state. The bill requires the landowner to make the purchase decision within 30 days of approval.

This Bill will update the current law and give the MALPF more control in overseeing easements, which is a step forward.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, supports this bill and asks that you give it a favorable report

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Susan W. Krebs  
Senator Justin Ready

**Carroll County Chamber of Commerce • 9 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157  
Phone: 410-848-9050 • Fax: 410-876-1023 • [www.carrollcountychamber.org](http://www.carrollcountychamber.org)**