



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support: SB 597 – Agricultural Cost Share – Fixed Natural Practices

Dear Chair, Pinsky and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters, representing more than 700 that develop, and own commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate support SB 597, Agricultural Cost Share, Fixed Natural Practices.

Among the bill's provisions is one that allows the use of Bay Restoration Funds (BRF) for durable, water quality improvements on agricultural land referred to as, "Fixed natural filter practices." These include planting of riparian forest buffers and other tree plantings, wetland restoration and pasture management such as livestock fencing.

Previously the BRF could only be used for annual cover crops. Funding permanent practices in locations that are highly cost effective is wise use of the fund that will advance the Watershed Implementation Plan.

For these reasons, NAIOP respectfully requests your favorable report on Senate Bill 597.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T.M. Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.