



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

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House Bill 17 - Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Valuation of Easement

Committee: Environment & Transportation

January 28, 2020

MASCD Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts represents the 24 districts throughout the state of Maryland that spearhead the design and implementation of conservation practices on the landscape. MASCD strongly supports the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and its easement acquisition efforts. Therefore, MASCD supports HB17 which allows the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) to use an appraised fair market value (for the determination of the value of an easement) for up to two years after the date on which MALPF was first requested in writing to purchase the easement.

This is important because the easement purchase does not always close within a year of the first offer due to a variety of factors including funding, county match, of familial issues with the property owners. Appraisals can be expensive and having to repeat the appraisal is duplicative and not an efficient use of resources.

MASCD supports HB 17 and asks for your favorable report.

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