



January 21, 2025

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SUPPORT: SB266 - Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy - Planning Principles

Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB266: Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy - Planning Principles. We appreciate the Department's thoughtful examination of the state's planning policies and efforts to update and align the policies with other state goals, including climate mitigation as an essential component of thriving communities.

Our state's "Policy and Planning Visions" were first adopted in 1992, and while they were amended in 2000 and again in 2009, it has been fifteen years since the policies have been revised. The Maryland Department of Planning conducted a series of regional roundtables to collect feedback from stakeholders on the 'planning visions' and the challenges for implementation. As a result of these conversations, the Department of Planning has refined twelve planning visions into eight planning principles, providing greater clarity and focus for local and county planners. Each of the eight principles are clearly expressed, with additional guidance on how the principle can be applied to meet three overarching goals: Improving human well being, mitigating climate change, and growing economic opportunity.

Maryland LCV believes that this revision to our state's planning program will provide essential guidance to local and county planners in their efforts to meet state goals, which will help Maryland achieve a goal of cleaner water, healthier air, and more resilient communities for everyone in Maryland. We are pleased to support this legislation and urge a favorable report.