



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
Park and Planning Commission

POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1228 - Department of Commerce - Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study MC 15-25

Position: SUPPORT

Date: April 1, 2025

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Brian Feldman:

The Montgomery County Planning Board (the “Board”) has voted in support of this bill.

What this Bill Does. This bill compels the Department of Commerce to conduct a study of opportunities to increase the economic vitality of Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve.

Supporting the Agricultural Preserve. The Commission supports the intent of this legislation. Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve represents one-third of the total land area in the County. It is therefore critical that we regularly monitor and study the area to ensure that it maintains economic viability. It is appropriate for the Department of Commerce to take the lead in this study, and we look forward to supporting them with any data sharing and/or resources we can provide.

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote in support of HB 1228.