



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
Park and Planning Commission

## **LETTER OF CONSIDERATION**

**Bill:** HB 352 /SB 321 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025      **Date:** February 27, 2025

**Contact:** Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

**Re:** Recommendations to modify or eliminate funding for land preservation programs.

Dear Chair Vanessa Atterbeary,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC” or the “Commission”) has not taken a position on this bill. However, staff have prepared a letter of consideration with key points to evaluate.

**BRFA Provision for Fiscal Stability.** In an effort to modify the transfer tax formula to support the General Fund, the Department of Legislative Services recommends eliminating, for fiscal 2026 through 2029, the funding allocated for land preservation by the following programs: POS State land acquisition, including funding for the POS – Public Access Program and POS – Greenspace Equity Program; POS – Local; the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program; and the Rural Legacy Program.

**Background.** Parks, recreation, and open spaces are essential to the high quality of life for Montgomery and Prince George’s County residents. The Commission’s parks and recreational amenities – from its urban parks, athletic facilities, ice rinks, and trails to its museums, historic buildings, and conservation area parks – contribute significantly to the quality of life in our community.

- Any significant cuts or proposals to reduce funds from Program Open Space, or critical land preservation programs would have an impact on implementation of our park’s acquisitions.
- The recommendation to modify the transfer tax allocation for fiscal years 2026 through 2029 by transferring funds from critical land preservation programs, puts local land preservation programs risk.

We respectfully ask the committee to consider these key points when evaluating the proposed recommendations.