



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Support: HB 687 – Agricultural Cost Share – Fixed Natural Practices

Dear Chairman, Barve and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters, representing more than 700 that develop, and own commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate support HB 687, 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 House Bill 687.

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: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.