



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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March 9, 2022

Bill: HB 1415 Grading and Sediment Control Plans - Agricultural Land Management Practices - Definition
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, it is our sincere pleasure to support passage of HB 1415 Grading and Sediment Control Plans - Agricultural Land Management Practices – Definition.

HB 1415 seeks to include a definition of “agricultural land management practices” in the Maryland Code to expressly include the acts of clearing and grading land in preparation for agricultural land management practices, in order to ensure the activity is exempt from the Stormwater Water Management Plan requirements. Currently, there is ambiguity in the regulations that create uncertainty as to whether clearing and grading of land in preparation for an agricultural land management practice is exempt.

The Commissioners have heard from constituents that are active in the agricultural community, and they have raised concerns about the requirement to complete the stormwater management “Three Step Process,” under the notion that agricultural land management practices are exempt. HB1415 will clarify that clearing and grading property in order to establish cultivatable agricultural land is an exempt agricultural land management practice, and will not require a stormwater management plan under COMAR 26.17.02.

We encourage a favorable committee report on HB 1415. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our full support.

Sincerely,

County Commissioners of Charles County
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation