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Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
The Honorable Dana Stein
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0842 – Agricultural Land - Foreign Property Interests - Restrictions
Letter of Support with amendment

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.


The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB 0842 – Agricultural Land - Foreign Property Interests – Restrictions but would kindly request an amendment that states this does not apply to legal immigrants. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on March 9, 2023.

It is our understanding that this bill will prohibit foreign persons from purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring certain interests in agricultural land in the State on or after October 1, 2023; and providing that the transfer of a certain interest in agricultural land to a foreign person is void as against the public policy of the State.

Cecil County is concerned that our agricultural land and our food supply chain could be jeopardized by foreign persons or governments owning this land and not utilizing it for agricultural purposes. We believe that this resource must remain in control of our citizens and legal immigrants.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee consider an amendment as part of favorable report on HB 0842.

Sincerely,


Danielle Hornberger
County Executive


Jackie Gregory
President of County Council