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Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB0631 “Eminent Domain – Agricultural and Conservation Easements – Prohibited Taking “

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on HB0631 which would prohibit the state or counties from using eminent domain to take private property that is subject to an agricultural or conservation easement.

One of the reasons landowners choose to preserve their land is to protect it from development. Landowners give up certain rights for the greater good. Eminent domain takes land for the greater good. This bill recognizes that the State and counties cannot be the arbiters of what is a “greater” greater good that would allow for the use of eminent domain on preserved land.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on HB0631.

Renée Hamidi  
Executive Director  
Valleys Planning Council

**Protect. Preserve. Enjoy.**