



Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee

Testimony on: HB0286 - "Planning Principles"

Position: Support w/Amendments

Hearing Date: February 4, 2025

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) supports HB 0286, which replaces the 12 visions with 8 planning principles.

ESLC is a proud champion of the comprehensive planning process and always refers to a county or municipalities' comprehensive plan when engaging on land use projects and policies. ESLC supports HB 0286 by the Department of Planning as it does clarify and simplify sustainable growth planning principles.

However, ESLC has concerns that some of the principles are too abstract. ESLC requests that the new principles retain the smart growth idea of protecting prime agricultural lands and rural open spaces, including sensitive natural areas. As the state's largest land trust, ESLC understand the value and the important relationship of sustainable growth in our communities, conservation of our most productive farmland, and protection of natural areas. These principles are not in conflict with one another, and together create the balance of sustainable land use.

ESLC urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report w/ Amendments on HB 0286.

Respectfully,

Owen Bailey

Owen Bailey
Director of Land Use and Policy

