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1/21/25

Testimony in support of SB0189 - Eminent Domain – Agricultural and Conservation Easements
– Prohibited Taking

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: John Davis

Dear Chair Senator William C. Smith Jr., Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members
of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bill 0189, which would prevent the taking of land in
agricultural and conservation easements by eminent domain. Many of my neighbors and fellow
landowners in the agricultural preserve program would be directly impacted by this bill, and I am
advocating for their protection.

When landowners choose to place their property in agricultural preserve, they make a commitment
to preserve and protect the land for the benefit of future generations. In exchange, they should have
the assurance that their land will not be seized. It's deeply concerning that, while landowners face
restrictions on how they can use their own land, corporations and the government can still take that
land for their own purposes. This is unfair and undermines Americas ethics.

This bill is about more than just preserving the rights of farmers and landowners in agricultural
preserve—it is about standing up for fairness, ensuring that landowners are not taken advantage of
by larger entities. Allowing the government or big companies to seize protected land sets a
dangerous precedent for landowners everywhere and threatens the integrity of the agricultural
preserve program.

I urge you to approve SB 0189 to protect farmers, landowners, and the values that our rural
communities stand for. This bill is a step toward fairness, and it would set a strong example for the
nation about respecting the rights of those who work to preserve the land.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I trust that you will act in favor of landowners'
rights and vote to approve SB 0189.

Sincerely,
John F. Davis