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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 0189**

**Eminent Domain- Agricultural and Conservation Easements- Prohibited Taking**

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Carolyn Dzimielia Castillo. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 0189 Eminent Domain- Agricultural and Conservation Easements- Prohibited Taking.

This bill seeks to prohibit the state or its subdivisions from using eminent domain to seize Maryland farmland and conservation lands.

As a resident of Landsdale community in Monrovia, Maryland I am surrounded by our rich Maryland rural landscape that contain existing easements by landowners who have preserved their properties for public benefit. For example these easements have conserved woodland areas that contain forests and meadows, freshwaters areas that have streams and wetlands and conserved agricultural lands that provide our local food and also entertainment.

Senate Bill 0189 is important in order to maintain these ecosystems for future generations by not allowing overdevelopment or destruction of preserved farmland and conserved lands. Many of these lands house our cherished wildlife that need the open lands to maintain their habitats.

There is opinion that government should have more say about how long lands are set aside for conservation and the blocking of public necessity such as affordable housing development, powerlines and or water or sewer pipes but if we don't preserve what we have now how can our future generations enjoy our natural areas, wetlands, locally produced foods and beautiful wildlife?

**Please support Senate Bill 0189**

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely  
Carolyn Dzimielia Castillo