

Amanda and Brandon Green  
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Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

We are Amanda and Brandon Green, owners and operators of Green Valley Farm, LLC, located at 1107 Slingluff Road in New Windsor, Maryland. Our farm spans 201 acres of farmland, where we raise beef cattle and hogs, and cultivate crops to support our livestock. Our farm is not only our livelihood but also the realization of our lifelong dream that we can pass onto our sons.

We are writing to express our strong **support for HB1024**, to prohibit the use of eminent domain on properties under Ag Preservation/Conservation Easements.

Our farm was put into two separate agricultural preservation easements. The first part of the farm was put into the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program in 1987 “for the purpose of preserving agricultural and woodland” per the agreement. The second part of the farm was put into a Carroll County Conservation Easement in 2011. The easement states, “The purpose of this Conservation Easement are to conserve and preserve the significant conservation values...the natural, agricultural, forestal, environmental, scenic, cultural, rural, woodland and wetland characteristics of the Property, maintain viable resource-based land use and proper management of tillable and wooded areas of the Property, and, to the extent hereinafter provided, prevent the use or development of the Property for any purpose or in any matter that would conflict with the maintenance of the Property in its open-space condition. “

These easements are important to Maryland, specifically Carroll County because the officials set a minimum goal to permanently preserve 100,000 acres of county farmland. In 2020, the County successfully preserved over 75,000 acres of farmland. In November of 2021, a painting by Mary Jeanne Coles was presented to Maryland's Governor to celebrate Carroll County's success of preserving 75,000 acres of the 100,000 acre goal. The painting was then made into commemorative posters that were sold to raise money for the Carroll County Land Trust for future preservation efforts. This painting was of our farm, one of the many preserved farms that have been proposed to have the high-tension powerlines running through the middle of.



It is understood that these preservation easements are in place to protect and preserve agriculture and farms forever. Yet, they could still be taken through eminent domain for projects like transmission lines. If this is true, what exactly are they protected forever from?

We urge you to support HB1024 to uphold the rights of Maryland's farmers and ensure that all agriculturally preserved farmland does stay preserved. Not only for the individuals and families who dedicate their lives to farming, but for all of Carroll County and Maryland to stay the beautiful agriculture landscape that we in Carroll County are known for.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda and Brandon Green  
Green Valley Farm, LLC  
1107 Slingluff Road  
New Windsor, MD 21776