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March 3, 2026

Testimony in support of Bill HB1024

To: Economic Matters Committee

From: John A Kable, DVM

My name is John Kable and I am a resident of Westminster, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for HB1024 which prohibits the State and its agencies from using eminent domain to take property that is protected by a perpetual agricultural or conservation easement.

I am a life long resident, a veterinarian and a farmer in Carroll County. I have for 70 years watched marshes, streams, forests, and farm after farm plowed into shopping centers, tract housing and gas stations. Carroll County has worked diligently to stem this loss through Farm Preservation. County and State taxpayers have funded this effort with widespread support. Farm owners have given up development rights to keep their land in perpetual conservation easements. This bill will help keep an irreplaceable State treasure intact for the benefit of future generations of Marylanders.

Preserved farmland is an easy target for the taking by eminent domain. It is relatively inexpensive to obtain and engineer. The taking of land with a perpetual preservation easement paid for and widely supported by Maryland taxpayers is simply wrong.

I urge you to support HB1024, to advocate for its passage, and to do what Marylanders have done with their tax dollars; preserve our farmland, our natural resources, and our agricultural heritage.

Thank You for your time and discernment. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss this critical issue. I appreciate your dedication and service.

Sincerely,

John Kable DVM