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**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB1267 - Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - Zoning Classification (Protecting Patuxent Research Refuge Act)**

**Organization: Individual**

**Person Submitting: Lore Lyon Rosenthal**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 6, 2026**

Dear Chairwoman Valderrama and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of **HB1267 - Patuxent Research Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - Zoning Classification (Protecting Patuxent Research Refuge Act)**

Maryland and the East Coast needs more open space. In order to prevent the most severe impact of global warming, we need green space (trees, plants, and grasslands) to breathe clean air for us. The Patuxent Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (along with the Goddard Space Flight Center) are fondly referred to as the “Lungs of the Chesapeake”. They represent a large swatch of uninterrupted green space. Without them, we have very little land mass to regulate our climate.

In addition, both Patuxent and BARC participate in agricultural research. For example, they evaluate which vegetable and plant species will be able to survive and withstand higher temperatures that are anticipated in future years. This research assures us that we will not become “food insecure” and we will have enough food in the future.

If the zoning of these lands is changed, we run the risk of development overrunning this green space.

For all these reasons, I recommend **a favorable report on HB1267**

Thanks,

Lore Lyon Rosenthal