



CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

150 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 20, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1095 – Calvert County – Property Tax Credit – Tobacco Barns

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Committee Members:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes in support of HB1095 and respectfully requests a favorable Committee report.

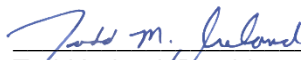
HB1095 authorizes the governing body of Calvert County to grant, by local law, a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on real property that was formerly used solely as a tobacco barn. Tobacco barns are among the most recognizable symbols of Southern Maryland's agricultural heritage. For generations, tobacco farming shaped Calvert County's economy, culture and landscape. Although tobacco production has declined significantly following the state's tobacco buyout program, many of these historic barns remain standing as tangible reminders of our rural roots.

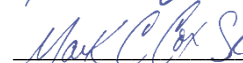
Unfortunately, the cost of maintaining aging wooden structures can be significant. Without incentives, property owners may face difficult decisions regarding upkeep, demolition or neglect. HB1095 offers a practical, locally controlled tool to encourage preservation while ensuring that properties continue to qualify under agricultural use or tobacco buyout parameters as outlined in the bill.


Preserving historic tobacco barns is not simply about saving old buildings. It is about safeguarding Calvert County's rural character, honoring the families who built our agricultural economy and maintaining the scenic landscapes that residents and visitors value. A locally administered tax credit provides a balanced, voluntary mechanism to support those goals. For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1095.


Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact County Administrator Linda Turner at 410-535-1600 ext. 2200.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND


Todd Ireland, President


Mark C. Cox Sr., Vice President


Catherine M. Grasso


Earl F. Hance


Mike Hart