




Howard County


Agricultural Land Preservation Program

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony for MALPF Easement Application, Robb Property

To: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Administration

Through:  Valdis Lazdins, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

Through:  Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Zoning

From: Joy Levy, Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator, Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: June 25, 2018

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Resolution No. 114-2018. This resolution approves a Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) application for the purchase of an agricultural land preservation easement on property owned by John and Gina Robb. Section 15.15.01.09 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires the County's governing body approve agricultural land preservation easement applications to MALPF.

Council approval of this acquisition will preserve 26.6 acres of productive farmland in the County, adding to over 22,800 acres that have been preserved to date. The Robbs have a horse breeding operation and 81% of the property comprises an active agricultural use. The property contains 95% Classes I-III soils- exceeding MALPF's requirement. A preserved property is located across Morgan Station Road, along with 930 acres of preserved land within a mile.

This preservation easement application complies with MALPF's eligibility criteria, therefore, staff supports Council Resolution No. 114-2018 and recommends Council approval. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Office of Law
Robb File