

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Michael Smith <smith@smithpllc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB-1 2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council:

I would like to express my support for CB1, which would allow for automatic annual renewal of the property tax credit for properties in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Our own farm is not in the program, but I support this bill because it will remove from farm owners the burden of having to file for the credit annually, sparing them from excess paperwork and the risk of inadvertently losing the credit, and allowing them to focus on their business of farming. It will also free up County employees from having to process renewals. And there would appear to be no downside.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Smith  
Sykesville

# HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

PO BOX 282

GLENELG, MD 21737

443-812-1662

[www.howardfarmbureau.org](http://www.howardfarmbureau.org)

January 17, 2023

To: Howard County Council

From: Leslie Bauer, President Howard County Farm Bureau

13981 Rural Rhythm Lane, Dayton, MD 21036

Re: Howard County Farm Bureau Support for CB1-2023

Good evening. My name is Leslie Bauer and I am President of the Howard County Farm Bureau. I am here this evening on behalf of Farm Bureau to offer testimony in support of CB1-2023, that will allow for the automatic renewal of the property tax credit for properties held within the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

As has been previously shared by the Department of Planning and Zoning, there are currently 282 agricultural preservation parcels within Howard County, either in the county ALPP or the state MALPF program, which are eligible for an annual credit to their property tax. This bill would assist farm owners by eliminating the requirement to reapply each year.

Howard County Farm Bureau sees several benefits to this bill:

- Overall, it will streamline the process and make it more efficient for both the County and for farm owners.
- It will reduce County staff time required to implement the credit.
  - While the County will still need to monitor properties for eligibility, they will no longer need to facilitate the annual application process.
  - The County will not need to send reminders out to farm owners annually.
  - The County will not need to field numerous questions from farm owners as they work to complete the annual form.
- It makes the process less burdensome for farm owners. Currently farm owners must reapply for the credit on an annual basis. Paperwork must usually be completed during the spring/early summer when many farm owners are busy doing field work. Finding time to do extra paperwork during this busy season can sometimes be a challenge. It also seems the paperwork changes from one year to the next, so it is not always as simple as copying the information that was submitted last year into a new form. It usually also involves trying to locate additional property information to complete an updated/revised form.
- There is a percentage of farm owners who miss out on the credit each year because they forget to reapply annually. CB1-2023 ensures that all farm owners receive the credit they are rightfully due. While this may create an increased cost to the county via property tax credits, I believe the consistency in being able to fully budget the annual credit cost, as well as the savings in staff time and resources will offset this cost.

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Clark's Elioak Farm <clarkselioakfarm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 8:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB1-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing in support of CB1-2023, a bill to allow for the automatic renewal of the property tax credit for properties held within the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. This bill will eliminate excessive paperwork and make the process more efficient for both the County and for farm owners. It reduces the time required by County staff to implement the agricultural tax credit, as they will no longer need to facilitate an annual application process. It also creates less burden for the farm owner who will no longer need to remember to file for this credit annually, helping to minimize paperwork so the farm owner can spend more time focusing on the business of farming.

I always have trouble remembering to do this renewal every year. This is especially true since it happens when all of the farmers in the county are busy farming in the Spring and early Summer.

Thank you so much for considering this common sense change. It will help out everyone involved.

Thank you so much.

Martha Clark  
Clark's Elioak Farm  
10380 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Keith Ohlinger <kohlinger05@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 7:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** kohlinger05@verizon.net  
**Subject:** In Support of CB1-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing in support of CB1-2023, a bill to allow for the automatic renewal of the property tax credit for properties held within the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. This bill will eliminate excessive paperwork and make the process more efficient for both the County and for farm owners. We purchased our farm in 2012, and when this became an issue, I looked back in the online records. It appeared that for almost 20 years the County had automatically applied the credit. This makes sense because it reduces the time required by County staff to implement the agricultural tax credit, as they will no longer need to facilitate an annual application process. It also creates less burden for the farm owner who will no longer need to remember to file for this credit annually, helping to minimize paperwork so the farm owner can spend more time focusing on the business of farming. I was intimately involved when this issue resurfaced a few years ago and even I forgot to file in 2021 until the last minute. It is also a beneficial credit; we received our updated assessment through SDAT recently and it has increased by almost \$200,000. We would really appreciate your support on CB1-2023.

Very Truly Yours,

Keith Ohlinger  
Porch View Farm LLC

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** rrfarm@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 7:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB1-2023 - Support

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to show support for CB1-2023, a bill to allow for the automatic renewal of the property tax credit for properties held within the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. This bill will eliminate excessive paperwork and make the process more efficient for both the County and for farm owners. It reduces the time required by County staff to implement the agricultural tax credit, as they will no longer need to facilitate an annual application process. It also creates less burden for the farm owner who will no longer need to remember to file for this credit annually, helping to minimize paperwork so the farm owner can spend more time focusing on the business of farming.

Thank you for your consideration, Ricky Bauer

rrfarm@verizon.net

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** james hurt <jphurt@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 2:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** CB-1- 2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

The need to annually re-file the Application for Agriculture Credit makes for unnecessary work and calendar keeping for year after year. The same result could be achieved automatic renewal EXCEPT by a very rare triggering event initiated by the Land Records clerk in Ho. Co. Circuit Court Clerks office to the effect that Agriculture land has changed its "Use" to something other than Agriculture.

James Hurt  
Ho. Co. Farm Bureau member  
410-967-6536  
12700 Old Frederick Road 21784

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Barb Glenn <glennbarb6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Barb Glenn  
**Subject:** Support for CB-1-2023  
**Attachments:** Support for CB-1 Glenn Family Farm 1 9 23.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Attached please find our letter of support for CB-1.

Thank you for your leadership on seeing this bill passed.

Regards,

Scott and Barb Glenn  
Glenn Family Farm

[Glennbarb6@gmail.com](mailto:Glennbarb6@gmail.com)  
cell 202-577-6660

**Glenn Family Farm**  
12940 Clarksville Pike, Highland, MD 20777  
[Glennbarb6@gmail.com](mailto:Glennbarb6@gmail.com), Home 301-854-3299

**January 9, 2023**

**Howard County Council,**

**We support CB-1-2023**, a bill that provides for automatic renewal of the tax credit for Agricultural Land, if the property owner remains eligible. We understand that the bill provides a date, April 1 preceding the new tax year, as the date when a property owner shall initially apply; and that this provision relates to the tax credit for Agricultural Land.

**This bill is a smart step for three reasons:** it is consistent with all provisions regarding agricultural land, its consistent with the permanent assignment of land into preservation by the county and state, and it increases business efficiency for both the farmer and the county. Farmers in Howard County – from small to large- are busy with farming. Anything we collectively can do to keep us focused on growing food, feed and fiber is a step-in support of Agriculture.

Agriculture is the largest commercial industry in Maryland, employing some 350,000 people, including nearly 6,000 full-time farmers, and contributing some \$8.25 billion annually to the economy. Agriculture also remains the largest single land use in the State, with 2 million acres, or roughly 32 percent of total land area used for farming in 2021. While the majority of Maryland's farmland lies in the north central part of the State and the upper Eastern Shore, more than 20 urban farms thrive in Baltimore City. In 2021, some 12,400 Maryland farms averaged 161 acres each. According to the 2017 Census, 96% of farms are family owned

(<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/agri.html>)

Howard County's own diverse agriculture industry is 335 farms strong, with innovative robust growth in landscape, greenhouse and horticulture enterprises; a boom in agri-tourism and locovore food sales to consumers through farmers' markets and other outlets; and more horses per acre than any other county in the U.S., along with boarding and training services (<https://hceda.org/farm-agriculture/>).

**We strongly urge you to pass CB-1.** Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you on this matter ([glennbarb6@gmail.com](mailto:glennbarb6@gmail.com)).

Sincerely, Barb and Scott Glenn