



Howard County

Agricultural Land Preservation Program

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony for Pue Property Installment Purchase Agreement

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

Through: Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning *Marsha*

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 *Joy*

Date: June 13, 2014

The Department of Planning and Zoning, of which the Agricultural Land Preservation Program is a part, supports Council Bill No. -2014. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by the Estate of Richard Lansdale Pue. Section 15.507(g)(4) of the Howard County Code requires County Council approval of a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter.

The approval of an Installment Purchase Agreement for the Pue property would preserve 81 acres of productive farmland in the County, adding to the over 20,700 acres that have been preserved to date. The easement will cost \$1,971,200 to acquire. The funding comes from the portion of the transfer tax dedicated to the agricultural land preservation program. When the twice yearly interest payments that the IPA provides are factored in, the overall cost of the Pue easement will be \$2,284,322. This farm is desirable due to its high percentage of Classes I, II and III soils. Having met all eligibility criteria for the acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement, staff supports Council Bill No. -2014 and hopes that the County Council moves to approve it. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration
Stanley Milesky, Director, Department of Finance
Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Office of Law
Ag Read File
Pue File