

Subject:

Testimony for Council Bill 54-2014 (ZRA 152)

To:

Lonnie Robbins

Chief Administrative Officer

From:

Marsha McLaughlin, Director

Department of Planning and Zoning

Date:

November 25, 2014

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports adoption of Council Bill 54-2014 which proposes to amend Section 107.0. of the R-ED Zoning Regulations to create a new Section 107.0.K. to add provisions concerning the use and subdivision of R-ED properties with Agricultural Land Preservation Easements. The Department of Planning and Zoning is aware of an approximately 51 acre property adjoining the Patapsco Valley State Park in the Woodstock area that the owner proposes to have incorporated into the Agricultural Land Preservation Program ("ALPP"). This property is comprised of two parcels and is splitzoned; part of the property is zoned RC-DEO, and part of the property is zoned R-ED. The amendment would essentially mirror similar provisions in the RC and RR District regulations, because the current R-ED District regulations do not address ALPP easement issues in any way. This proposed amendment likely only affects this one property, although it could also enable ALPP easements on large farm properties that are zoned R-ED in the east, such as the 220 acre Gould farm properties on Gorman Road and Murray Hill Road. There are no significant fiscal impacts associated with adoption of this legislation.

Please contact me if you have any questions (x4301).

Cc:

Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Gale Benson, Acting Budget Administrator
Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, Department

Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Zoning