



# Howard County

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## *Agricultural Land Preservation Program*

### MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Testimony for Cattail Meadows, LLC 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 *B*

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

**Date:** February 6, 2015

The Department of Planning and Zoning, of which the Agricultural Land Preservation Program is a part, supports Council Bill No. -2015. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by Cattail Meadows, LLC. 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 Cattail Meadows property would preserve 168 acres of productive farmland in the County, adding to the over 21,900 acres that have been preserved to date. The easement will cost \$6,630,300 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 Cattail Meadows easement will be \$7,890,170. This farm is desirable due to its large size and the significant amount of preserved land nearby.

Having met all eligibility criteria for the acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement, staff supports Council Bill No. -2015 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  
Cattail Meadows, LLC File