



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Shari T. Wilson  
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Re: Letter of Support, Senate Bill 95: Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundation- Farmland Preservation Partnership Program

Dear Senator Conway and Committee Members:

As the Chair of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, the Maryland Department of the Environment supports SB 95. This bill allows the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to protect undeveloped land through a Farmland Preservation Partnership Program.

SB 95 is supportive of the State's smart growth and climate protection goals, addressed respectively by the Smart, Green and Growing Program and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009. Protecting forested and agricultural land helps to keep development closer to population centers, which keeps vehicle miles traveled to a minimum, preventing emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Furthermore, when forested and agricultural land is left undeveloped it is able to sequester carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas associated with climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as you review SB 95. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or [lnissley@mde.state.md.us](mailto:lnissley@mde.state.md.us) if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration  
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy  
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison



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