

(please insert your name and address)

March 16, 2011

Dear Delegate MacIntosh:

I am writing to let you know that I would very much like for you to vote in favor of HB1241. It would limit incompatible development in Maryland Rural Legacy areas. The following uses would be limited to no more than five acres: shopping centers, Electric Power Stations and Substations or any non-agricultural use.

Maryland's Rural Legacy program has been a very successful part of the Smart Growth Policy. Maryland is known throughout the nation for its very firm commitment to preserving valuable soils and environments and protecting them from inappropriate development.

The State of Maryland has devoted hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to conserving these valuable lands. Individual farmers and landowners have donated their valuable development rights often at a great sacrifice to the Rural Legacy Program. These industrial and commercial uses are not what the State intended when it designated these areas for rural conservation. It is just not right.

These uses if allowed could seriously jeopardize the Maryland Environmental Trust and other land protection vehicles. If people don't feel protected when they relinquish their rights to their land's future economic profitability then they will not choose to participate.

Please vote in favor of HB 1241. It is good for Bay, the Farms, the Environment and the People of Maryland. Please help enhance the protection of Rural Legacy.

Thank in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely: