



January 26, 2023

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Executive Nominations Committee  
Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair  
Executive Nominations Committee 202 James Senate  
222 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice-Chair Hayes,

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy strongly supports the nomination of Kevin Atticks as Secretary for the Maryland Department of Agriculture. For the past two decades, Atticks has been an advocate for Maryland agriculture, recognizing that achieving a resilient food system and promoting sustainable agriculture requires farms of all sizes, and that the industry thrives best when it is united.

Given the ongoing impacts of climate change on food growing regions around the world, the importance of Eastern Shore agriculture will only increase. Climate change is leading to the loss of productive farmland from sea level rise and saltwater intrusion, making our prime farmland even more vital and worthy of long-term protection.

Environmentally sound farming practices and equitable access to renewable energy are essential and powerful tools in the fight against climate change, underscoring the importance of protecting our most productive farmland.

Kevin understands the challenges facing Maryland agriculture - from increasingly fragmented farmland, climate factors and market instability to aging demographics of farmers, rising production costs and population growth – require effective government policies and programs that will help farms succeed and thrive for generations to come.

We strongly urge the Committee to advance Kevin Atticks' nomination in a timely manner so that he can continue to grow his legacy of service to the farmers of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SK", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Steven Kline, President  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy





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Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Hayes,

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy strongly supports the nomination of Josh Kurtz to be the next Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). His professional background and expertise in conservation policy position Josh well to lead this important department, and we very much look forward to working with the Secretary-designate.

As Secretary, Josh will work to preserve the unique rural character of Maryland's Eastern Shore, ensure a thriving natural resource-based economy, and conserve the iconic fish and wildlife of this special region at a time when it is faced with unprecedented pressure from development and climate change.

There is much to be done to build ecological resilience and protect important landscapes and Josh Kurtz has demonstrated that he possesses the knowledge and skills to lead the Department of Natural Resources at this critical juncture.

As Maryland's leading regional land trust, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy works closely with DNR and appreciates immensely the work of the department's great and passionate staff. However, persistent capacity issues at DNR have impacted mission-delivery and morale. Under the leadership of Governor Moore and Josh Kurtz, we are confident the department will begin to immediately address these concerns and build an agency well-suited for future success, motivated by conservation and grounded in science. We look forward to a robust working relationship with the Department under the Moore Administration.

We strongly urge the Committee to advance Josh Kurtz's nomination in a timely manner so that he can get to work leading the Department of Natural Resources and serving on behalf of the people and natural resources of the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Kline".

Steven Kline, President

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy





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Dear Chair Beidle and Vice-Chair Hayes,

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy strongly supports the nomination of Rebecca Flora as Secretary for the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). MDP provides critical services for rural towns and counties who lack dedicated planners, including review of comprehensive plans, water and sewer plans, plan amendments, annexations, priority funding areas, and rezoning.

All of these have profound implications for the sustainable growth and development of the region, and require a dedicated and visionary leader of this key agency. Rebecca's leadership roles with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Green Building Alliance, Ecology and Environment and her own company ReMake have transformed buildings and communities by integrating sustainability and resiliency into the built environment.

Leveraging her expertise in urban renewal projects, Main Street programs, and brownfield redevelopment is key to ensuring that future development and growth in Maryland embrace opportunities to proactively address climate-related issues while supporting more equitable communities.

Our rural communities need consistent MDP guidance and assistance to determine how best to shape the future. We urge the Committee to advance Rebecca Flora's nomination in a timely manner so that she can get to work leading the Maryland Department of Planning on behalf of the people of Maryland. .

Sincerely,

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Steven Kline, President  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy





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Dear Chair Beidle and Vice-Chair Hayes,

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy strongly supports the nomination of Mayor Jake Day as Secretary for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The myriad of community development programs operated by DHCD play a critical role in encouraging smart growth, historic revitalization, vibrant towns, and public services which improve the quality of life for Maryland residents and businesses. Mayor Day is uniquely qualified to lead this agency.

As mayor of Salisbury and past president of the Maryland Municipal League, he is intimately familiar with the challenges facing Maryland's communities. His background in architecture, urban design and environmental policy - and his position as the former director of the Center for Towns at Eastern Shore Land Conservancy - will serve him well in this important position. Fostering environmentally and economically stable towns that incorporate innovative housing and workforce solutions are key to preserving the unique rural character, farmland, and critical environmental areas that characterizes much of Maryland.

We urge the Committee to advance Mayor Day's nomination in a timely manner so that he can get to work leading the Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of the people and communities of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Kline".

Steven Kline, President  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

