



PENNSYLVANIA LAND TRUST ASSOCIATION

June 18, 2020

Re. Support SB 881: leverage farm preservation funds No cost to state; large conservation benefit

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 70 member organizations of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and their more than 100,000 Pennsylvania members, I write to request that you **support Senator Martin's Senate Bill 881**.

While imposing **no new costs on the Commonwealth**, SB 881 will **increase the volume of farm preservation** achieved by the state. It will accomplish this by directing a small portion—up to \$3 million annually—of the existing Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to support the purchase of agricultural conservation easements by private, charitable land trusts. The increased quantity of farm preservation will result from the bill's requirement that land trusts **match state funding dollar for dollar**.

Land trust involvement in farm preservation delivers further public benefit in the long term by placing the responsibility and costs of managing the purchased agricultural conservation easements on the land trust rather than county and state government. (Land trusts have substantial experience raising philanthropic dollars to provide this management.)

SB 881 also will incentivize agricultural preservation by farmers belonging to plain sect communities, who are often reluctant to work with government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew M. Loza
Executive Director

cc: member organizations

Voting Members

- Allegheny Land Trust
- Allegheny Valley Trails Association
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Armstrong County Conservancy
- Armstrong Trails
- Berks Nature
- Brandywine Conservancy
- The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation
- Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Centre County Farmland Trust
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Chestnut Hill Conservancy
- ClearWater Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund, PA Office
- Countryside Conservancy
- Delaware Highlands Conservancy
- Earth Conservancy
- Eden Hill Conservancy
- Edward L. Rose Conservancy
- Evergreen Conservancy
- Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County
- Foundation for Sustainable Forests
- Fox Chapel Area Land Trust
- French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust
- French Creek Valley Conservancy
- Glade Run Lake Conservancy
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
- Heritage Conservancy
- Hollow Oak Land Trust
- Independence Conservancy
- Lackawanna Valley Conservancy
- Lancaster Conservancy
- Lancaster Farmland Trust
- Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
- Land Conservancy of Adams County
- Land Trust of Bucks County
- Lebanon Valley Conservancy
- London Britain Land Trust
- Manada Conservancy
- Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy
- Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy
- Mokoma Conservancy
- Montour Trail Council
- Natural Lands
- Neighborhood Gardens Trust
- North American Land Trust
- North Branch Land Trust
- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Open Land Conservancy of Chester County
- Pennsbury Land Trust
- Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society
- Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
- Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust
- Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association
- Pocono Heritage Land Trust
- The Radnor Conservancy
- Regional Trail Corporation
- Schuylkill County Conservancy
- Schuylkill River Greenways Natural Heritage Area
- Somerset County Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Wallace Trust
- Tinicum Conservancy
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Westmoreland Conservancy
- Westmoreland Land Trust
- Wild Waterways Conservancy
- Wildlands Conservancy
- Willistown Conservation Trust