

Clarke County Board of Supervisors



Berryville Voting District
Matthew E. Bass
(540) 955-5175

Millwood Voting District
Terri T. Catlett
(540) 837-2328

Russell Voting District
Doug Lawrence
(540) 955-2144

Buckmarsh Voting District
David S. Weiss – Chair
(540) 955-2151

White Post Voting District
Bev B. McKay – Vice Chair
(540) 837-1331

County Administrator
Chris Boies
(540) 955-5175

January 29, 2022

Sent Via Email to Sub-Committee Members

Dear Chair Bloxom and Honorable Members of the Chesapeake Sub-Committee of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resource Committee,

On behalf of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors, I am contacting you about HB 1283, proposed by Delegate Gooditis (chief co-patron Webert), on nutrient trading. The principal objective of the Clarke County Comprehensive Plan is to preserve and protect agriculture. As a Board, we have worked very hard to achieve that objective through sliding scale zoning and an active conservation easement program. Almost 25% of our county is in permanent easement. We respect the authority of other localities to build out their jurisdictions through residential, commercial, and industrial development. We also understand and appreciate the environmental benefits of the nutrient credit program.

In the past few years however, our small County has become a target. Our farmlands are being converted into trees to produce credits, which can be sold to offset development in northern Virginia. Once again, while we respect the ability for those jurisdictions to develop, we do not feel that their decisions should impact our goal of retaining farmland. Because of the small size of our County, losing even small tracts of land for this program can have a detrimental effect on local farmers. We strongly support the bill submitted by Delegate Gooditis and hope this Sub-Committee finds the bill fit to move forward in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

David S. Weiss

David S. Weiss, Chairman
Clarke County Board of Supervisors