

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING § 8-209(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, CONSERVATION PROPERTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE ACTIVELY USED FOR FARM OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR VALUATION AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

9-107.

(a) In this section, "conservation property" means land that is:

- (1) unimproved;
- (2) not used for commercial purposes; and
- (3) subject to a perpetual conservation easement that is:

(i) donated to the Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Environmental Trust and identifies the Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Environmental Trust as a grantee under Title 3, Subtitle 2 of the Natural Resources Article; and

(ii) accepted and approved by the Board of Public Works after June 30, 1986.

(b) There shall be a property tax credit granted under this section against the property tax imposed on conservation property.

(c) On or before October 1 of the taxable year for which property tax relief under this section is sought, an owner of conservation property may apply to the Department for the property tax credit. The application shall be made on the form that the Department provides.

(d) The property tax credit provided under this section shall be granted against 100% of all property tax that otherwise would be due.

(e) [Valuation and assessment of conservation property shall be made in the same manner as any other real property in the county.] CONSERVATION PROPERTY SHALL BE VALUED AND ASSESSED AS PROVIDED IN § 8-209.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(f) A property tax credit granted under this section is effective for 15 consecutive tax years beginning July 1 following the donation of the easement.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2006, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2006.

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
 President of the Senate
 State House
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have