

~~(II) THE PROGRAM, WHEN IMPLEMENTED, WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT TARGETED INVESTMENTS IN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND IN KEY RURAL INDUSTRY SECTORS; AND~~

~~(III) THESE TIMELY INVESTMENTS SHOULD ALSO ENABLE LOCAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE ADDITIONAL NONSTATE FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO FACILITATE THE REALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WHILE THE PROGRAM IS IN EFFECT; AND~~

~~(5) THE PROGRAM WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE STATE BY:~~

~~(I) ENCOURAGING THE INCREASE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMMERCE AND A BALANCED ECONOMY IN THE STATE;~~

~~(II) ASSISTING IN THE RETENTION OF EXISTING BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMMERCE AND IN THE ATTRACTION OF NEW BUSINESS ACTIVITY ACROSS THE STATE;~~

~~(III) RELIEVING CONDITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS;~~

~~(IV) EXPANDING THE AVAILABILITY OF CAPITAL AND CREDIT FOR SMALL AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OTHERWISE PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS;~~

~~(V) RETAINING VALUABLE FARM AND FOREST LAND FOR PRODUCTIVE USE BY PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS;~~

~~(VI) PROMOTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS IN AND BETWEEN RURAL AND OTHER AREAS;~~

~~(VII) ENHANCING THE DEPLOYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WASTEWATER, AND BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS;~~

~~(VIII) SUPPORTING RURAL COMMERCIAL CENTER REDEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION EFFORTS; AND~~

~~(IX) GENERALLY PROMOTING THE HEALTH, HAPPINESS, SAFETY, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF EACH OF THE RURAL COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS OF THE STATE.~~

13-503.

~~(A) THERE IS A RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.~~

~~(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED FUNDING FOR THE SUPPORT OF RURAL AREAS THROUGH STATE AND REGIONAL UNITS THROUGH 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH §§ 13-504 AND 13-505 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~