

February 22, 2017

Elizabeth Hughes
Director/State Historic Preservation Officer
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

RE: The Packing House – Eastern Shore Food and Farming Exchange

Dear Ms. Hughes:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I am pleased to express our support for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's (ESLC) application to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, to support reuse of the Phillips Packing Company, Factory F (The Packing House), located in Cambridge, Maryland. The funding request is \$100,000 to assist with stabilization of building's symbolic smoke stack.

The City of Cambridge has been identified as one of the ESLC's Center for Towns priority towns and for roughly five years they have been working on a variety of projects here. One key project was the acquisition of the six acre site slated for Cannery Park. A key part of the Cannery Park conversation has been revitalization of a downtrodden industrial part of Cambridge - and most importantly the 60,000 sq. ft. Packing House which is adjacent and overlooks the future Cannery Park.

The deteriorating Phillips Building is the last remaining factory from the Phillips Company's empire of vegetable and food packing businesses which employed thousands and fed our troops during WWII. The property is located in the old industrial district of Cambridge at the geographic center of the City. Reuse of this culturally and historically significant structure, into a Food and Farming Exchange, represents an opportunity to support the Eastern Shore's terrific farming resources and growing local food economy through business and job creation, and workforce training. The Packing House, adjacent Cannery Park site, and the nearby company housing are all part of an overall revitalization strategy ESLC refers to as the 'Packing District'.

The importance of the stabilization of this property, for revitalization and restoration, cannot be understated. The Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grant would be a significant piece of support for ESLC to realize their vision for this property, and enhance efforts in Cambridge.

Sincerely,