

Agenda Item No. 12

Date 08-08-2016

August 2, 2016

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director
Rural Maryland Council
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Phillips Packing Company, Factory F – Food and Farming Exchange

Dear Ms. Davis:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I am pleased to express our support for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) application to the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Rural Entrepreneurship Development, requesting \$50,000 to support reuse of the Phillips Packing Company, Factory F, located in Cambridge, Maryland. The funds will focus on the Kitchen Business Incubator, and related use components, of the Food and Farming Exchange concept.

The City of Cambridge has been identified as one of the ESLC 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. Phillips Building 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. Reuse of this historic and culturally 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,