

Advocacy Alert!

Action needed on Barn Preservation Legislation. General Assembly Session ends Monday April 10.

This year's General Assembly session comes to a close on Monday, April 10th. In these final days we need your help in support of [Agriculture - Preservation of Historic Structures: HB 699](#). This bill passed the House, and is now waiting to be brought to a vote before the Senate.

HB699 would establish a Maryland Advisory Committee on Historic Agricultural Structure Preservation and a Maryland Barn Preservation Fund. This non-lapsing fund, including \$300,000 from the General Fund per year, would make grants to preserve historic barns and agricultural structures throughout the state. This legislation is vital to aid in the coalition effort to preserve [Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns](#), which were placed on the [National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11-Most Endangered List](#) in 2004. Congress recently designated \$200,000 to the restoration of tobacco barns in Southern Maryland through the Save America's Treasures program, and Preservation Maryland is presently working with county governments, heritage areas, land trusts, and farmers to develop a comprehensive plan for tobacco barn preservation. The remarkable response to this program demonstrates the need for funding for historic barns throughout Maryland.

TAKE ACTION!

Contact members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Matters Committee and urge them to pass this bill.

The [Senate Education, Health and Environmental Matters Committee](#) will be meeting to vote on this bill on **Thursday, April 6th at 1pm**. **Please contact members of this committee and urge them to support HB699**. If your delegation is not represented on this committee, please contact [Paula Hollinger](#), chair of the committee.

Please contact your representatives or the chair of this committee. It is critical that they hear from you before the meeting convenes tomorrow.

Thanks for your support!

Tyler Gearhart
Executive Director