



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY MANAGER: Dan LaMontagne

December 4, 2023

Evan Davis, Director
North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture
Farmland Preservation Division
2 West Edenton Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Evan Davis:

On October 17, 2022, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved funding to support agricultural preservation and development within Chatham County, leading to the development of the Chatham Agricultural Preservation and Development (CAPD) Trust Fund. Funding for the CAPD Trust Fund was designated in an Article 46 tax referendum that was approved by Chatham County voters in the March 2020 voter referendum.

As a result of this unanimous vote, Chatham County is committed to providing funding for farmland preservation through the CAPD for FY 2025 (beginning July 1, 2024). Although the final amount of this funding will be contingent on collected tax revenues, Chatham County anticipates this amount will be \$350,000 for FY 2025. This will be an all-cash designation, with the funding held in trust by the Chatham County Finance Department until it is allocated through a CAPD grant award and contract execution. Chatham County's committed funding to the CAPD may be used both for the acquisition of working lands conservation easements as well as associated transaction costs, including stewardship endowment contributions.

Designated funding for the CAPD indicates Chatham County's commitment to farmland and working lands preservation, which is highlighted as a priority in our current comprehensive plan and in other county planning and strategic initiatives. We are excited about this opportunity to qualify for matching grant funds through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's "Agricultural Growth Zone" grant program.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our current farmland preservation funding commitments or the anticipated funding levels indicated in this letter.

Most sincerely,

Karen Howard
Board of Commissioners, Chair
Chatham County, NC
karen.howard@chathamcountync.gov