

## 2020 Legislative Priority

### **Issue:**

Protect Property Rights and Local Control

### **Background:**

The rights of property owners across the state have been under scrutiny as businesses have developed and diversified. Neighbors and local governments have been fighting land owners' property rights well after the final decision has been made by the regulating authority.

### **Story Points:**

- The decision about where to locate renewable energy production facilities, CFO/CAFO's and other business expansions should follow standards established by local governments.
- Local control of land-use planning is best accomplished at the county level of government.
- Considerations regarding the productivity of farmland, availability of marginal land/reclaimed mines/brownfields, and the impact on existing uses of land in the area should be included in decisions about standards set at the local level.
- Whether it is renewable energy, livestock expansion or customary farming practices, property owners should have the authority to decide what activities take place on the land they own.
- There are existing statutes that dictate which regulatory authority has the final say on what the land owner can and cannot do.
  - The local government should not have the authority to dictate whether an activity occurs or not.
- Local governments have the ability to impact and direct economic development opportunities already set in statute.

### **Key Message/Ask**

- The General Assembly should respect the authority given to local governments to decide how economic development will occur in their local region.
- Local governments should not infringe upon the rights of property owners while making decisions about how local economic development will proceed in their area.