The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is responsible for verification of the conservation value of Land Preservation Tax Credit applications claiming a tax credit of $1 million or more pursuant to the Land Conservation Incentives Act (Virginia Code § 58.1-512).

CONSERVATION VALUE REVIEW CRITERIA
All donations of land or a conservation easement for which the donor claims a credit of $1 million or more must meet the conservation value review criteria adopted by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation board. Please contact DCR for a copy of the criteria or visit at www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation.

PRE-FILING REVIEW
Although not required, DCR staff strongly encourages such applicants to submit their deed of conservation easement or deed of gift and a Department of Taxation LPC-1 form for a pre-filing review before the easement is recorded. DCR staff makes every attempt to complete the review within 90 days.

The pre-filing review includes:
- Confirming the conservation purpose of the donation.
- Reviewing the deed’s conservation values and restrictions.
- Determining the status of any cultural or natural heritage resources on the property.
- Conducting a site visit to the property.
- Preparing a report on the proposed donation.
- Providing the applicant and his or her representative(s) with a comment letter containing requirements and recommendations for ensuring that the donation has verifiable conservation value that satisfies state criteria.

DCR gathers information about the donation’s conservation value during the pre-filing review prior to making a comment to the applicant. Bear in mind, however, that a comment by DCR on a pre-filing application is not the same as DCR’s official verification of the donation’s conservation value to tax as is required by Virginia Code § 58.1-512.

COMPLETING THE DONATION
For DCR to verify the conservation value of a donation, completed applications must include at a minimum:
- A final LPC-1 form, which can be found at www.tax.virginia.gov.
• An updated Baseline Documentation Report.
• A conservation easement or deed of gift that meets the requirements in the comment letter that may have been received.

VERIFICATION OF CONSERVATION VALUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
Within 90 days of receiving a completed LPC-1 form and supporting documentation, DCR verifies to the Department of Taxation the conservation value of the donation. The Department of Taxation considers an application complete only after DCR has verified the conservation value. **Completion of a pre-filing review greatly expedites this process.**

Donors hoping to take full advantage of tax incentives offered for land preservation in Virginia during a given tax year should submit a pre-filing application early in the calendar year. **Those who apply for the credit late in the year risk being unable to receive the tax credit because DCR cannot ensure that its review of the conservation value can be completed within that year.**

For general information about land conservation in Virginia, contact DCR’s Office of Land Conservation at (804) 225-2048 or visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/land_conservation.

This information is not meant as a substitute for legal or tax advice. Contact your attorney or tax advisor for information tailored to your situation.