

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Isiah Leggett Montgomery County Executive 101 Monroe Street Rockville, MD 20850 May 19, 2015

Dear County Executive Leggett:

Noxious Weeds in Front of the Up-County Regional Services Center

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC met on May 19, 2015 and we continued our discussion in opposition to Bill 52-14 Pesticides-Notice Requirements-Non-Essential Pesticides-Prohibitions. <u>The AAC does not believe the County Government can afford</u> to implement this law given the fiscal impact statement shows "a six year total of \$12,804,070 for M-NCPPC as part of converting maintenance practices on current fields to allowable practices under Bill 52-14."

The Committee acknowledges that Bill 52-14 provides an exemption for the control of Noxious Weeds as outlined in section 33B-10 Exceptions and Exemptions. This exemption is important because there are Noxious Weeds (Thistle) growing in the flower beds in front of the Up-County Regional Services Center where the AAC meets each month. We have contacted the staff of the Up-County Regional Services Center regarding these weeds and it is our understanding the staff contacted the County Building Services to remove them.

The agricultural community must constantly battle the growth of noxious weeds because the Maryland Department of Agriculture requires noxious weeds must be controlled or eradicated on all properties (public or private) in the State as outlined in the attached notice. Please help us to make sure that Montgomery County complies with the State Noxious Weed Control Law.

The AAC would like to thank you for this opportunity to present our continued opposition on Bill 52-14 and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer David Weitzer, Chairman

Members of the Montgomery County Council

Cathy Mathews, Director, Up County Regional Services Center