

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Tom Hucker, President Montgomery County Council 100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Hucker:

ZTA 21-08 Landscape Contractor Use Standards

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, please accept this letter expressing our views on ZTA 21-08 Landscape Contractor Use Standards.

The AAC believes that Montgomery County Government has not done a good job of identifying areas where horticultural businesses including landscape contractors can locate and thrive. This ZTA 21-08 attempts to address this environment by allowing landscape contractors in the Rural Residential and Agricultural Reserve zones as a limited use. We are aware of the position of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board to support ZTA 21-08 with an amendment to increase the minimum lot size above 2 acres. The AAC agrees that a 2-acre minimum lot size may be too small specially in the Rural Residential zones.

In the past, when the County has proposed legislation to address the needs for horticultural businesses including landscape contractors, the proposed legislation was assigned to a work group of industry and community stakeholders due to the contentious nature of the issue. The AAC recommends that ZTA 21-08 may need to be assigned to a work group so that representatives from the industry and the community can discuss the proposed limited use conditions. This suggestion will help in the development of recommendations that can assist the County Council for approving limited use standards that all stakeholders have discussed and agreed on.

We thank the County Council for this opportunity to present our views and we will participate in the Council Committee Work Session when this ZTA 21-08 is scheduled.

Sincerely,

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Doug Lechlider, Chairman Cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive

