



"Representing the Agricultural Producers of Montgomery County"

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Friedson, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: ZTA 24-02 Incidental Outdoor Stays

Council President Friedson:

Forty-four years ago, our county council and fellow citizens had the vision of establishing The Agricultural Reserve, ensuring the preservation and the future of farming in our county. This was accomplished through creative zoning that has stood the test of time. Certainly, it has not come without challenges. However, collectively we have been able to persevere and protect this Nationally recognized program called The Ag Reserve. The major goal was to ensure that development would be limited only to structures that directly supported agriculture.

Changes in zoning that affect the Ag Reserve should always require the input of not just the ag community but all citizens of the up-county community. Councilmembers Luedtke and Balcomb understood this and set out to make sure that all voices were heard. We all spent many hours and countless zoom calls working together on this ZTA and are pleased with the results of this effort. Montgomery Agricultural Producers supports ZTA 24-02 as written. We thank Councilmember Gonzales for withdrawing her earlier ZTA and supporting 24-02. We realize that the PHP committee will have other input to consider as they review this document. We would like to offer our assistance to the committee if they deem it necessary during this process.

In closing, I would like to draw the Councils attention to the fact that during this review process MAP, MCFB, MCA, and SCA have collectively been involved in the development of ZTA 24-02. The fact that we are unified in this position should speak volumes to you and your associates that we stand united and strong in our convictions in support of ZTA 24-02.

We ask for your favorable consideration of ZTA 24-02.

Sincerely

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