

July 23, 2025

Montgomery County Zoning Board

OZAH@montgomerycountymd.gov

Please accept this letter as a commentary on the proposed solar development at 17700 Barnesville Rd. Barnesville, MD. The applicant is Davis Development.

My husband and I specifically purchased a home and horse farm at 17101 Conoy Road in Barnesville in order to be in the Agricultural Reserve. We were not living here at the time of the first meeting with the planning commission. We are very disappointed with the proposed solar plan at the above address. Unlike the planning commission, we do believe the installation will affect the character of the farm lands and town of Barnesville which surround this acreage. Again, the AG Reserve was put in place for a reason. The current owner of 17700 Barnesville Road is supposedly farming the land. If that is so, why allow a solar array to be built on a productive farm? I assure you, this is about money....not preservation.

In addition, we have a concern about the chain link fence which has been proposed. In the original minutes of the planning meeting, Davis Development offered to install a fence more fitting for farmland. But the proposal as it now stands shows a horrible looking chain link fence and a locked chain link gate. We request these be revised to be in keeping with the character of the area. We also ask that the gate be placed at least 100 feet from Barnesville Road.

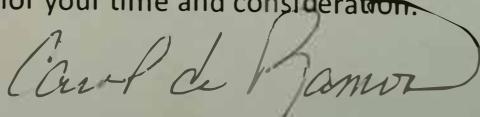
The landscaping proposal is also a concern. The 8 foot tall plants which are shown are not large enough (as initial plantings) and the evergreen proposed is slow growing. We ask that larger trees be installed and that Green Giant Arborvitae be planted instead of the holly trees in the proposal.

I see that there is a water holding tank being installed on the solar array. I assume this is being placed as a source of water in case there is a fire. Fire is a major concern of ours. The local fire department has not been informed of this array and has no plan in place in case of fire. There are specific needs for fighting a fire at a solar array, and we would like to be assured the local company will have all training and equipment needed to keep our community safe.

As we are new to the area and the planning commission has recommended a conditional use approval, we sadly feel like this is a done deal. If that is the case, please consider the above requests in order for this development to have the lowest impact on our beautiful community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol deRamon

17101 Conoy Road Barnesville, MD 20838

Exhibit 21(c)

OZAH Case No: CU 25-07