

**From:** [Criss, Jeremy](#)  
**To:** [Tibbitts, Dale](#)  
**Cc:** "[Doug Lechliden](#)"; [Aliza Silver](#); [Scheffel, Mike](#); [Lonnie Luther](#); [Todd Greenstone](#)  
**Subject:** Broad Run Creek Farm-Recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory Committee  
**Date:** Monday, September 27, 2021 1:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [AAC-Broad Run Creek farm as edits.doc](#)

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Hello Dale,

Attached, you will find a letter addressed to the County Executive from the Agricultural Advisory Committee with recommendations on the proposed County parks acquisition of the Broad Run Creek Farm.

Please let us know if you or Marc have any questions.

Thanks J

Jeremy V. Criss  
Office of Agricultural Services, Director  
18410 Muncaster Road  
Derwood, Maryland 20855  
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301-943-9766 (Cell)

Please take a moment to answer this quick satisfaction survey about our interaction today:

<https://forms.gle/yXhnxpQLtHgFPtBX6>

[jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov)

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agsservices>

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## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 27, 2021

Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Montgomery County  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich:

Proposed Acquisition of the Broad Run Creek Farm by  
County Parks

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, please accept this letter with our concerns surrounding the proposed acquisition of the Broad Run Creek Farm by the County Parks Department that we discussed during our September 21, 2021 meeting.

We hope this letter will assist you in concluding that this transaction should not proceed based on our concerns as outlined below.

We do not believe County Parks has demonstrated this transaction will result in a public purpose because a portion of the farm (63 acres) will remain in private ownership. It is our understanding County Parks has not demonstrated transparency in providing details to the County Government surrounding this transaction specifically the treatment of the six retained Transferable Development Rights-TDRs that will be realized if the existing County Agricultural Easement is terminated. We believe the present value of the easement offered by County Parks in the amount of \$600,000 is under valued considering the six TDRs could result in six new roof tops in the Agricultural Reserve. We believe the proposal is an abuse of existing law and we agree with the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-APAB that amendments to the County Code Chapter 2B-10 are needed to address this precedent setting transaction and to provide better clarity for future cases. We also believe the County Code should require that condemnation requests must be presented to the APAB, as do all other requests involving farms encumbered by agricultural preservation easements.

We are frustrated how County Parks has put you in a difficult position by not being transparent and not providing you with the details needed to make the best decision for the residents of Montgomery County. Based on what we know today, we encourage you to not proceed with this transaction. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Lechliden, Chairman

Cc: Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant

