



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2022

Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Albornoz: Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, we would like to provide these comments regarding testimony that was provided by the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee-RRAC during the September 20, 2022, public hearing to amend Bill 24-22 Streets and Roads.

The RRAC is recommending amendments to Bill 24-22 that will increase the number of RRAC committee members from 7 to 9 and remove the income requirements for farmers. The agricultural community does not support the recommendations from the RRAC to amend Bill 24-22 because we believe they will negatively impact the farmers ability to advocate their needs surrounding the Rustic Roads Program.

The Agricultural Reserve was created in 1980 to ensure that Montgomery County would have productive farmland for food and fiber production for future generations. The Rustic Roads program was proposed in 1992 and most of the Rustic Roads are in the Agricultural Reserve that prevents farmers from safely moving their farm equipment from one farm field to another. **Please see the attached picture from Michael Jamison of Jamison Ag and Turf.**

The Rustic Roads program and RRAC needs the ability to address the needs of the farmers and the proposed amendments will not accomplish the advocacy that farmers need.

If the County Government is truly interested in our farmers being successful, we must create an environment where we can clearly hear their concerns and effectively address them.

Sincerely,

Doug Lechliden, Chairman

Cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive

