



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

June 13, 2013

County Executive Isiah Leggett
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850


Dear Mr. Leggett,

There is little debate over the fact that the business of agriculture is an important part of Montgomery County's economic success and to our quality of life. Indeed, over 560 farms contribute close to \$250 million to the county's economy.

In today's world, technology has become a critically important tool for agriculture and to the success of our farming community. Unfortunately, our farming community in our Agricultural Reserve currently does not have access to the state of the art when it comes to high speed broadband, the backbone of today's internet world.

That can be remedied however. You are in negotiations with COMCAST to write a new cable franchise agreement. It seems to me that this presents a prime opportunity to meet our goal. To that end I am asking that you direct your negotiators to make the provision of access to high speed broadband technology in these areas of the county a reality during the life of the new contract.

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal so that we can assure that these county residents will have the same advantages available to them as those living in more urban communities.

Sincerely,


Roger Berliner
Councilmember, District 1
Montgomery County Council

cc: David Weitzer, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Caroline Taylor, Countryside Alliance
Beth Daly, Sugarloaf Citizens Association
James Brown, President, Poolesville Board of Commission