



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 16, 2020

The Honorable Tom Hucker, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20856

Re: Bill 5-21, Agricultural Land Preservation – Solar Collection System – Dedication of Business Personal Property Tax Revenue

Dear Council President Hucker,

The Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board continues to seek new and alternative sources of funding to purchase agricultural easements. Finding a sustainable source of funding was a challenge prior to the pandemic and remains a challenge.

The Board supports Bill 5-21, Agricultural Land Preservation – Solar Collection System – Dedication of Business Personal Property Tax Revenue. We understand that the public hearing for the bill was postponed from its original 2/9/2021 date. Bill 5-21 is directly linked to ZTA 20-01 and we acknowledge the final discussion on 5-21 will depend upon the Council's final vote on the solar ZTA.

However, the Board felt compelled to support the bill as it attempts to address the funding dilemma for the Agricultural Preservation CIP. We respectfully ask a favorable vote on Bill 5-21 if ZTA 20-01 is enacted by the Council.

Sincerely,

Michael Jamison, Chairman

cc: Jeremy Criss, Director, Office of Agriculture