



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Tom Hucker, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Hucker: Bill 16-21 Environmental Sustainability - Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards - Amendments

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, please accept this letter with our recommendations for the Bill 16-21 Environmental Sustainability - Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards.

The AAC discussed this Bill 16-21 during their May 18, 2021 meeting and we agree that energy must be used efficiently to reduce costs and to eliminate waste. From our reading of the Bill 16-21, we understand that the focus of the legislation is to ensure all buildings greater than 25,000 square feet in size will be required to meet the new Building Energy Use Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

We want to make sure the Councilmembers understand that some agricultural buildings in the County exceed 25,000 square feet in size, however these agricultural buildings only use electricity for lighting and these builds do not have mechanical heating and air conditioning systems. It is important to note that farmers also incorporate poly carbonate panels in the roofs of agricultural buildings to let sunlight in during the daytime hours which helps to reduce both energy costs and energy waste.

The AAC recommends that all existing and new agricultural buildings should be included in the Applicability section 18A-38 (d) as underlined below.

18A-38B. Applicability.

This Article does not apply to a covered building for which more than 50% of the total gross floor area is used for:

- (a) public assembly in a building without walls;
- (b) industrial uses where the majority of energy is consumed for manufacturing, the generation of electric power or district thermal energy to be consumed offsite, or for other process loads; or
- (c) transportation, communications, or utility infrastructure.
- (d) existing and new agricultural buildings used for farming, production, and storage.



We thank the County Council for this opportunity to present our views and we will participate in the Transportation and the Environment Council Committee Work Session when this Bill 16-21 is scheduled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Lechliden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Doug Lechliden, Chairman

Cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive