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My name is Jeffrey Rubin and I live in Potomac. I am here to express my support for Thrive 2050. It is a visionary document that addresses critical needs of Montgomery County.

The challenges of climate change and a legacy of inequity, reflected in practices such as redlining, require a comprehensive rethinking of our communal existence. I welcome the concept of “complete communities”, with its emphasis on walkable spaces for residents, a greater variety of housing options, a mixture of business and residential property, and a greater reliance on mass transit and green technologies. Preservation and, in some instances, restoration of the natural environment are of utmost importance.

The value of Thrive 2050 ultimately will depend on a faithful implementation of its principles. That will require rezoning to allow for the changes in land use described in the plan, such as a reduction in the proportion of residential land limited only to single family dwellings, and a change in policy to better promote the availability of more affordable housing, including for renters. It also means that economic development in the eastern part of the County must be a top priority, not deferred as it has been in the past. Historically marginalized communities must be provided the resources necessary for them to have an opportunity to thrive, along with the rest of our population. This includes protection of people at high risk of displacement as the Thrive plan is implemented.

I recognize that this plan was generated with the intention of promoting racial equity. Nonetheless, the document should undergo an independent review by the Racial Equity and Social Justice Office prior to its approval.