



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 22, 2022

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

Dear Council President Albornoz: Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building
Decarbonization

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, we would like to provide our testimony for Bill 13-22: Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonization.

Our understanding is that Bill 13-22 will require the County Executive to issue all-electric building standards for **new** construction, major renovations, and additions by January 1, 2024.

We also understand that Bill 13-22 includes Exemptions for certain uses as defined in Chapter 59 Zoning such as manufacturing, crematories, life sciences, and commercial kitchens.

The AAC recommends that all **agricultural buildings for farming uses as defined in Chapter 59 Zoning** should be added to the list of exemptions because farmers cannot pass on additional costs of doing business to their customers.

The Agricultural Reserve was created to ensure that Montgomery County would have productive farmland for food and fiber production for future generations. Bill 13-22 would negatively impact our farmers. This regulation translates into additional costs of production, resulting in a competitive disadvantage with farmers outside of the County. For Agriculture to continue to be successful, and it is successful, we must be competitive throughout the State and the Nation.

Most farm product prices are not set, or even influenced by individual farmers. Agriculture is a pure competitive form of business where no individual producer can or will influence the price of products they produce. It is important for the County Government to understand that our farmers use Natural Gas and Liquid Petroleum-LP Gas to dry and then store commodity crops like corn, wheat and soybeans and these commodity crops encompass a majority of acres in agricultural production for Montgomery County.

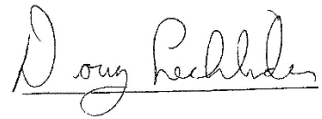
If the County Government is truly interested in our farmers being successful, we must create an environment or process where the business of agriculture **and farming** is viewed differently than other businesses in the County. In the past, Montgomery County has exempted the business of



agriculture **and farming** from specific legislation, and we must do this again for Bill 13-22 in support of our farmers.

We thank the County Council for this opportunity to present our views to exempt all **agricultural buildings for farming uses as defined in Chapter 59 Zoning** from Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonization.

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

Jeremy Criss, OAG Director