

# Ag Reserve Zoning



**Andrea Tasan**

5:49 PM (1 hour ago)

to county.council

Dear CouncilMembers,

I am writing to express my strong support for the agricultural groups, community associations, and all those who have a respect for and love of the Ag Reserve. I oppose the passing of ZTA 23-09.

The purpose of ZTA 23-09 is not consistent with the original goals and ideals of the development of the ag reserve and as such seeks to destroy its character. The proposed ZTA does not meet any of the fundamental purposes of the AR to preserve working farms, open space and water resources. For these reasons, it should be rejected. The Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve has been used as a model in other states to preserve farmland and protect farmers. Montgomery County has the highest percentage of farmland under agricultural land preservation easements in the nation. This highly successful model would be at risk if ZTA 23-09 is approved.

Living in Gaithersburg, I frequent the ag reserve and marvel at the natural beauty so close to where we live. I appreciate the farmers who work diligently to grow crops and supply local foods to our farmers' markets as well as provide healthy food for our less financially able. Our farmers already struggle with the difficulties inherent in farming. Changing the game will drive farmers away and cause loss of this precious resource, open and fruitful land.

It is vital that this ZTA be dropped. The well-known richness of Montgomery County, Maryland, stems, in part, from the fact that we have managed to preserve some of our beautiful land. ZTA jeopardizes that, and for that reason, I recommend that this ZTA proposal be dropped for good.

Thank you,

Andrea Tasan