

Testimony
Claudia Kousoulas
Against ZTA 23-09

As a former and longtime Montgomery County resident, as a retired Montgomery County Planning professional, and as co-author of "Bread & Beauty, A Year in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve" and of "A Culinary History of Montgomery County," I am writing in opposition to zoning text amendment 23-09.

As a former planner, I know the effort, care and commitment that set aside the Reserve for agricultural uses--it was an extraordinary act of vision and stewardship that should not be negated to serve the interests of a few. I also know the value the Reserve brings to the County and the region: varied and skilled jobs, drinking water protection for more than 4 million people, a repository of history, and most importantly a place for farming and local food production.

Montgomery stands out among its neighbors for retaining this farmland. Please do not succumb to this shortsighted vision and instead turn your attention to programs and requirements that will truly support farming.