

I am a resident of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and a supporter of Montgomery Countryside Alliance. I stand with the agricultural groups, community associations, and other stakeholders who have stated clearly and firmly our opposition to ZTA 23-09.

The ZTA demonstrates a stunning lack of understanding of the Reserve, the economic complexity of keeping farms viable and, importantly, supporting new diverse farm operations. Want to know how to support the Reserve and its farms? Ask the farmers what their challenges are and listen:

- How will this affect farmland cost, already a barrier to new and expanding producers?
- Has serious thought been given to how this would impact well and septic operations?
- Has this been properly vetted with agricultural producers?
- Has there been review of the existing zoning code to see where commercial lodging can be best addressed?

Meanwhile, agriculture is talking to you. They are telling you this ZTA will hinder not help. Please work to withdraw this ZTA.

Elizabeth R. Wilbur