

Montgomery County council-members,

My name is Matthew Gimbrere and I am writing to express my opposition to the Zoning Text Amendment 23-09 allowing for the construction of multiple lodging structures on farm properties in the Agricultural Reserve. The construction of such structures would convert much of the Ag Reserve into a glorified suburb and forever alter the economic viability and farming ethos of this uniquely sacred space. I have had the pleasure and privilege of growing up in the Ag Reserve and the sanctity of its farms and wild spaces is something that should not be taken for granted. It is precisely because these spaces are protected from development that so many people (from developed areas down county and elsewhere) enjoy visiting them! Passage of ZTA 23-09 would, in the long term, result in the Ag Reserve becoming more developed through the increase of such "commercial lodging" structures. This will eventually erode the "farm charm" that strongly exists in the Ag Reserve and would negatively impact the current style and amount of agritourism that has already been established in partnership with the farming communities here.

Council-members, please take the time to properly consider each and every effect ZTA 23-09 would have on the economic viability, current communities, and farming ethos of the Agricultural Reserve before hastily taking action on it.

Sincerely,
Matthew Gimbrere