



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

December 18, 2023

The Honorable Andrew Friedson, President
The Honorable Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Chair ECON Committee
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: ZTA 23-09, Farming – Incidental Outdoor Stays

Dear Council President Friedson,

The Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB) met for its November meeting, during this meeting ZTA 23-09 was discussed and the Board moved to remit testimony.

The APAB has concerns about this proposed use including: what type of structures should be allowed for this use (permanent or non-permanent), how many structures should be allowed on any property, should there be a minimum lot size, how to regulate the structures once the use of ag-tourism ends, do these structures require a building permit, are permanent structures for this use allowed on preserved farmland, what have other jurisdictions regulated incidental outdoor stays.

Due to the number of concerns, the APAB recommends the creation of stakeholder workgroup to review potential impacts this ZTA may have and how to best remediate these impacts.

We look forward to working with the Council on ZTA 23-09.

Sincerely,

Michael Jamison, Chairman

cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive

Mike Scheffel, Director, Office of Agriculture