

## **TESTIMONY AGAINST ZTA 23-09**

Dear Montgomery County Council Members,

I am a resident of Silver Spring. Although the Agricultural Reserve isn't near my home, I've always treasured its existence as a green landscape where farms and farmers thrive. It's considered to be the country's -- yes, the "country's", not just the county's -- most successful farmland preservation program and has been used as a model in other states.

**These are accolades that all Montgomery County residents should be proud of and fiercely protect.**

I object to ZTA 23-09 because it would change the entire nature of uses allowed in the Agricultural Reserve Zone and would not be consistent with its purpose. If enacted, it would authorize construction of up to 10 luxury resort lodging structures on farm properties in the Reserve. This would be in direct conflict with the fundamental purposes of the AR: to preserve working farms, open space and water resources.

**I ask that you vote against it.**

Thank you,

Natalie Dickter  
South Four Corners  
Silver Spring