

Dear Council President Friedson & Councilmembers,
Ref: ZTA 23-09 Incidental Outdoor Stays in the Ag Reserve

I oppose even introducing ZTA 23-09.

The proposed ZTA does not meet any of the fundamental purposes of the Agricultural Reserve to preserve working farms, open space and water resources.

ZTA23-09 is a commercial lodging proposal. It has nothing to do with supporting agriculture or farmers. If this ZTA is enacted, it would authorize the construction of up to 10 luxury resort lodging structures on farm properties in the gAg Reserve.

Furthermore, this bill would hamper agriculture endeavors in the agricultural reserve. When non-farming landowners can buy up land in the Ag Reserve for commercial lodging operations, farmers looking to buy or lease land for growing food and fiber will face significantly greater cost - in the one part of the county expressly set aside for agriculture.

This ZTA would change the entire nature of the uses allowed in the Agricultural Reserve Zone, and I ask that you vote against it. The proposal is not consistent with the purpose of the Ag Reserve.

Thank you for your vote to preserve the Agricultural Reserve for the uses for which it is intended.

Most Sincerely,
Roberta G (rg) Steinman
Silver Spring, MD