

Greetings Councilmembers, Since my children were small, our family has enjoyed visiting the Ag Reserve to enjoy the farms, the animals, the space, and the pace. Now two of my kids are young adults, coping with the pressure, the peers, the social media, and the mental health hangover from the pandemic. They find themselves drawn to the Ag Reserve to get away from the flurry and hear their own voices. At least two or three times each week, they seek the solace that connection to the land provides. The Ag Reserve is special because it's not overrun with commercialism. Plenty of other places are. We need you to protect the reserve and its farmers from having to compete with developers who want to fill the view with buildings and chop the farms into ever-smaller parcels until they disappear. I've lived and voted in Montgomery County for nearly 50 years. I've seen what happens when farmland falls to development. The Ag Reserve is protected to keep Montgomery County's jewel from destruction. Don't let this happen on your watch. Please protect the Ag Reserve for my kids, their kids, and all of our future generations. Thank you for your dedication to Montgomery County. Traci Richmond Cripplegate Rd. PS - I am attaching a photo I took last Fall while flying. It's a little hazy but if you look closely you can see what struck me enough to reach for my camera: the congestion of Northern Virginia, and on the other side of the line of the Potomac (horizontally crossing a little above the middle of the photo) is our lovely Agricultural Reserve. The difference is stunning. That is what I am asking you to protect