

Council Members,

I stand with the agricultural groups, community associations, and other stakeholders who have stated clearly and firmly opposition to ZTA 23-09.

The ZTA demonstrates a troubling lack of understanding of the Reserve, the economic complexity of keeping farms viable and, importantly, supporting new diverse farm operations. Want to know how to support the Reserve and its farms? Ask the farmers what their challenges are and listen. Then consider what you might do to help.

Meanwhile, agriculture is talking to you. They are telling you this ZTA will hinder not help. Please work to withdraw this ZTA. As a landowner in the Ag Reserve, I have serious concerns with how this initiative until further partnership is established with local farmer and land owners like myself. I suggest strongly that you partner with organizations like the Montgomery Countryside Alliance to facilitate even more direct collaboration with those of us who own land and/or operate farms in the Ag Reserve.

Respectfully,

David B. Ridgway