

Oppose ZTA 23-09: No Agritourism Without Working Farms

There are a number of concerns I have with this proposal but overall it seems vague and rushed on a topic that requires detail and careful engagement - land use of our treasured Ag Reserve.

Questions asked in listening sessions on this ZTA about economic impacts on farms, prohibitions on the size and placement of the proposed structures, and -notably- their impact on finite well and septic capacity, were left not only unanswered, but waved away as trivial matters.

Farmland once lost is lost forever, we rely on our public servants to be forward looking when it comes to protection of finite resources. Balanced agritourism policy that protects the very farms people want to visit is worth the care and attention to get it right. This ZTA is has been the wrong approach from the start and needs to be withdrawn. Commercial lodging is not farming.

As a former resident of Laytonsville and one who frequents farmers' markets, I am very concerned about the results of this proposal for the future of farming in Montgomery County.

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