

**From:** Criss, Jeremy

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 12:27 PM

**To:** Rubin, Leslie; Faden, Michael

**Cc:** 'weitzer@erols.com'; lonnie.luther@gmail.com; 'Carolyn'; Zawitoski, John

**Subject:** Resolution to Amend the Fuel/Energy Tax Rates

**Attachments:** AACFuel-Energy-Tax.doc

Hello Leslie and Michael,

Attached you will find the written testimony of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding the Resolution to Amend the Fuel/Energy Tax rates.

The AAC recommends the current Fuel/Energy Tax rates should sunset at the end of this fiscal year 2012.

The AAC is opposed to the rates being continued or increased.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks J

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## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 1, 2012

The Honorable Roger Berliner  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Berliner:                      Resolution to Amend Fuel/Energy tax rates

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC is opposed to continuing the Fuel/Energy Tax rates that were adopted two years ago to address the County's fiscal crisis. The AAC has repeatedly opposed the merits of this tax because it negatively impacts the agricultural community and results in our farmers being at a competitive disadvantage with other farmers in neighboring jurisdictions where this Fuel/Energy tax does not exist.

The farmers are price takers not price makers for the agricultural products they produce. The Fuel/Energy Tax represents another cost of production that the farmer cannot simply pass on to the consumer. The AAC strongly recommends that the current Fuel/Energy tax rates should sunset at the end of Fiscal Year 2012. The AAC does not support the continuing of the Fuel/Energy tax rates that were adopted to address the County's fiscal crisis. Today the residents and business owners of our state are expected to pay more taxes and fees to fund the business of government. Every time elected officials impose increases in taxes and fees you demonstrate a lack of understanding in how the residents and business owners are facing difficult choices in making ends meet. This atmosphere is contributing to the environment where residents and business owners are losing confidence in our elected officials.

The AAC strongly encourages the County Council to allow the current Fuel/Energy Tax rates to sunset at the end of the fiscal year which will allow residents and business owners to reduce their taxes for energy at a time when the overall cost of energy continues to increase.

The AAC thanks the County Council for this opportunity to present our views and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer, Chairman