

Jamison

AG & TURF

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September 24, 2020

The Honorable Sidney Katz, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20856

Re: ZTA 20-01, Solar Collection Systems, Frank Jamison's correspondence

Dear Council President Katz,

We are writing to you in response to a September 16, 2020 letter Frank Jamison wrote to you concerning ZTA 20-01.

Frank Jamison is the president of Charles H. Jamison, Inc, a real estate land company. His personal residence is a 60 acre farm. He does not actively farm the tillable crop ground and rents it to a local farmer. In addition, the real estate firm he represents in his letter, is not engaged in farming activities.

We want to make clear that Frank Jamison does not speak for Jamison Ag and Turf, whom is comprised of Kathy, Jamie, Joseph, Michael and Patrick Jamison. We farm approximately 5,000 acres of commodity grain and turf production and do not take part in the Jamison real estate brokerage firm.

Jamison Ag and Turf is completely against ZTA 20-01. This ZTA will hurt local farmers who rent crop ground from land owners. We cannot compete against the rental payments from the solar companies who are paying 5-10 times more than we are able to pay. If this ZTA passes, not only will put the acres we rent into jeopardy, but will have a long-term negative impact on the younger generation of farmers. We already have three landowners who want to put their farms into solar panels with the anticipation of more to follow. ZTA 20-01 is already beginning to show the unintended consequences that it will have on farmers with regard to the landlord/tenant relationship. We are witnessing some leases being tailored to short-term (year to year) on the premise that the landowner can convert to solar when zoning may allow. In agriculture, it takes

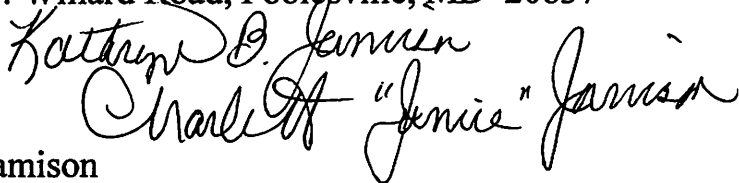
many years to build profitable soil health. Just the debate over ZTA 20-01 has already created a divide between the relationship farmers have with their landowners. Landowners may view their tenants in a very unfavorable manner and seek another farmer if they are publicly against this ZTA. All of a sudden, losing 10-15 acres may become losing the whole farm(s).

In 1981, Montgomery County created the Ag Reserve. Through out those years, farmers have invested their lives toward agriculture in a very metro/urban surrounding. We as farmers have always felt comfortable making large financial investments into our operations in this urbanized region. We did this with the comfort of knowing the Agricultural Reserve is dedicated to Agricultural production. As we look 10-20 years ahead, we are now being faced with the idea that long-term availability of our key ingredient to success, the Land, may not be a predictable business tool that it once was.

We ask that you, as Council President, work with the farmers of the Ag Reserve to oppose this ZTA.

Respectfully,

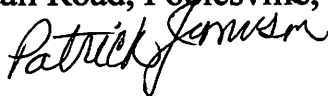
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