Name:robin fickerAddress:boydsWhat office are you seeking?:County ExecutiveWhere can voters learn more about your positions?:301-652-1500; robindeliversforyou.co

2 Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

As the ONLY candidate who lives in the Ag Reserve, I would say, "It is my home and where I farm." It preserves the agricultural heritage and green space of Montgomery County. If you want scare the crows away from the garden, you put the scarecrow in the garden where I live and not down by the Beltway where our opponents live.

<sup>3</sup> What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?

Preserving them is my TOP priority. I am appalled that the effort to "save Ten Mile Creek" has resulted such degradation of the watershed of our drinking supply at Seneca Lake, nearby where I live. The runoff in the creeks has tripled in the last few years as thousands of townhouses and a shopping mall have been allowed just north of the Lake.

<sup>4</sup> What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?

I live there, farm there and my sons farm there. As a local watchdog, I would Protect, Protect, and Protect the Ag Reserve.

<sup>5</sup> Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?

The urge to develop the land and break up the parcels of land into smaller parcels is the greatest challenge to be met. Also the pressure to ram roads through the Reserve must be resisted. Also, the efforts the import non-agricultural uses must be resisted.

<sup>6</sup> What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?

Encourage local grocery stores to buy local. Facilitate communication with the greatest resource, the US Department of Agriculture, where possible.

7 How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play? Increase recycling to the greatest extent possible. Incineration should play no role in Montgomery County at all. Composting in areas where our waterways will not be polluted is acceptable.

<sup>8</sup> How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?

Rural schools are the perfect place to endow youngsters with a thirst for farming and proper use of farmland. Of course I would provide equity for Reserve cluster schools.

<sup>9</sup> Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?

Encourage farmers to lease their land to those who cannot afford to buy farmland so those persons can grow crops. Relax regulations against roadside stands. Work with the Dept of Transportation to increase the limited number of road side stand locations presently allowed. Promote local breweries and wineries through Dept of Economic Development.

<sup>10</sup> What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?

Promote Rapid Transit. Oppose new Potimac Bridge through Ag Reserve and oppose outer Beltway.