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

If you fly into D.C. and look down, the green space you see is the Montgomery County Ag reserve, a protected plot of 93,000 acres that makes up about 40% of Montgomery County's landmass and is critical to the identity of our community, the quality of life, and the economy. This forward-thinking move has made Montgomery County a national model in environmental protection and provided Montgomery County with a natural treasure that allows for local agriculture, ag exporting and ag tourism to flourish, while also prevents suburban sprawl in future development and encourages smarter living.

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

I am a strong proponent of smart growth and was endorsed by the Sierra Club because of my desire to promote clean energy in Maryland and commit to a healthier and better environment. I believe that growth in our county is inevitable and necessary for us to have a vibrant and successful future but it must be balanced with protecting our natural resources. I support continued stewardship of our County's natural resources through in-fill development and public transit including walkable and bikeable communities to minimize impact on natural landscape.

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

I believe that the Ag Reserve is a wonderful aspect of Montgomery County but currently is underutilized. As we move towards a more sustainable "buy local and source local" economy, my vision of the Ag Reserve is to expand on the agricultural output, exporting and agricultural tourism opportunities it presents. We should have dedicated shelves in every grocery store with locally-grown produce and locally-made products and restaurants that feature local ingredients, etc. Maryland's growing craft brewery and winery industries should be strong partners with the Ag Reserve to create a new supply chain that is all locally grown.

5 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?

Development pressures -
The Ag Reserve must be protected from unnecessary development and as a Delegate I would voice my opposition to any development that doesn't fit within the master plan. A particular problem I see is the child lot provision being misused to allow additional housing being built and sold by developers. This action is

undermining the Ag Reserve and stronger language must be crafted to protect the rural community.

Farmers -

Many farmers are aging out of the industry and I believe we must encourage young entrepreneurs to enter the industry. I applaud the County's New Farmers program and I would support establishing a state fund for agricultural entrepreneurs to create businesses utilizing the ag reserve.

Broadband -

All of Montgomery County should have access to reliable and high speed internet. If elected I would support all efforts to expand broadband internet to the Ag Reserve.

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

We must focus on expanding our burgeoning agri-tourism business if we are to support farm businesses and communities. Around the country agri-tourism is becoming a major aspect of the economic driver and Montgomery County/Maryland as a whole is behind the curve. Additionally Montgomery County needs to invest heavily in school construction and expanded magnet programs in the Upcounty region to meet the growing needs of the rural community.

7 How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?

Montgomery County is a national leader in recycling with a program that is one of the broadest in the region. Moving forward I believe we should explore composting in conjunction with phasing out of incineration.

8 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?

Local farmers should receive preference in supplying food to schools in order to provide students with healthy lunch options while keeping our taxes local. If elected I will fight for additional funding to Reserve cluster schools. The Poolesville high school is desperately in need of renovation and I will stand with Upcounty citizens in their demands to secure funding in the Capital Improvement Budget to construct or renovate Reserve cluster schools.

9 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?

I fully support the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee and believe they will provide the best intelligence of how to advance farm activities within the context of the master plan. Smarter zoning practices to encourage agritourism while still protecting the Ag Reserve must be established to accelerate a strong agricultural economy.

10 **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?**

I support additional bridges on the Potomac and throughout the Ag Reserve and rural zones. Regionally I advocate for smart transit oriented growth, expanded bus rapid transit on MD355 between Bethesda and Clarksburg, and the construction of the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT).

As a State Delegate I will not have a vote in the construction of M83 as it is a county issue. As for the second bridge crossing--I believe our priority should be to focus on improving the existing American Legion Bridge.