

Andy Wight
20242 McNamara Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
July 9, 2024

Jamie Bergin
Chief Clerk Maryland Public Service Commission
6 Saint Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

RE: CASE NUMBER 9726

Dear Jamie Bergin

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors at the B-CC Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America to express our concerns regarding the two proposed systems that exceed the current zoning regulations set by ZTA 20- 01. Specifically, the systems not only exceed the permitted size of 2 MW allowed by zoning, but they are also situated on class 2-3 soils (current zoning does not allow systems on class 2 soils). This situation raises significant questions about the integrity of our zoning laws and the protection of our agricultural lands.

How can these systems exceed the established zoning limits? The Public Service Commission (PSC) has the authority to override county zoning regulations if they determine it is in the public's best interest. This power allows them to approve oversized projects, potentially disregarding the intent of local zoning.

It is crucial to remember that the existing zoning was implemented to protect the Agricultural Reserve, where the primary and preferred land use is agriculture. This zoning is not just about protecting farming, but also about safeguarding these areas from overdevelopment, both commercial and otherwise. By permitting larger systems, we risk undermining the very purpose of these regulations and losing valuable farmland to commercial interests.

Therefore, we urge the PSC to adhere to the current zoning restrictions and maintain the systems at the size stipulated by ZTA 20-01. These zoning laws are in place to preserve our agricultural heritage and ensure that commercial development does not encroach upon these vital resources. We cannot afford to lose more farmland to commercial

development, and it is crucial that the PSC respects and enforces the zoning laws designed to protect our community's agricultural resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your support in preserving our agricultural lands and maintaining the integrity of our zoning regulations.

Sincerely,

Andy Wight

First Vice President

B-CC Chapter of the IWLA