

To: The Charles County Commissioners

**Re: ZTA #24-182**

As a constituent, supporter of local agriculture, and member of the Charles County Farm Bureau, I am respectfully asking you to **oppose ZTA #24-182 regarding agritourism**. If this amendment were to pass, it could have unintended consequences for the broader agricultural community of Charles County.

Farming is not without its challenges, and us farmers in Charles County have had to diversify our operations after the Tobacco Buyout. Many of us have turned to a variety of products and production chains, such as vegetable and fruit production, grain marketing, greenhouse and nursery, cattle sales, horse boarding, and welcoming the public on our farms to purchase our products and enjoy the beauty we have worked so hard for.

I fear that if this amendment passes, our county's family farms, and business may be subjected to extremely expensive costs to change the way the public visits their farms and could likely put them out of business. Many farmers are living meagerly and are working on small margins due high input costs and low prices for their products. I believe that this amendment does not account for the seasonality of farming operations and could restrict farm businesses for both present and future opportunities by requiring paved parking lots and expanding entrances when there is a potential for more traffic.

Requiring paved roads and parking areas increases impervious surfaces on the farm and will create a greater amount of runoff rainwater. We already have a water tax assessment on our tax bill that addresses water runoff.

I humbly ask that the Commissioners do not approve this amendment, and work with the Planning Commission to find a pathway that both keeps our residents safe and affords us the ability to grow our business gradually.

The Charles County Farm Bureau is more than happy to sit down with the Planning and Zoning Division and work with them to come up with a solution that meets both the needs of the Charles County farming community as well as the needs/wants of the Planning and Zoning Division.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean A. Daetwyler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Dean Daetwyler

Bryantown, MD, 20617

CC: Charles County Farm Bureau