

**CB 28-2017 (ZRA 174)- IN SUPPORT OF.**

Keith Ohlinger  
2790 Florence Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797

Dear Howard County Council:

I am writing in support of CB 28-2017 (ZRA 174). This bill has many benefits to our community. It allows a small business to start in the home by reducing barriers to entry. This helps families with a stay at home parent to work from home and grow a business in addition to allowing the children to share, learn, and grow by attending the farmers markets and learning the business at a young age. By supporting the local food production industry we strengthen not only our local economy but also our resilience in times of trouble or lack.

This increase in local food production will also allow another potential revenue stream to be available for our local farmers. Our farmers can then retool to provide the needed ingredients to these local processors. This reduces the amount of travel products need from farm to processing which reduces fuel consumption, pollution, and increases freshness of the product. As the success of these businesses grows they can then move into larger spaces, hire employees, and further increase the economic base of the county.

CB 28-2017 (ZRA 174) is a win-win-win for all involved and will be a great benefit for our community. Please support CB 28-2017 (ZRA 174) and thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Keith Ohlinger  
Heritage Hill Farm