

Note from the President, June 25, 2017
Dayton Rural Preservation Society, <http://www.preservedayton.com>

Hello to all from within all four corners of Howard County that constitute our large support base. We thank each and every one of you for stepping up back in 2014 to stand by our side in numbers at several community and Howard County Council meetings as a show of our opposition to industrial mulching on ag preserve farmland in the County. Unfortunately, it is time to rally the troops, and quickly, for the next round of the fight that lies ahead for July. The small core team that has been representing your interests on this industrial mulching issue continuously since passage of favorable CB-20 has intentionally kept our supporters on the sideline to keep you ready to mobilize and spring into action if/when needed. That time is NOW. Definitely. We were happy with CB-20 then and are NOT happy now. Please read on.

For three long years we have been trying to hold down the fort for all we accomplished together with passage of CB-20 in June, 2014, through many Mulch Task Force and several meetings with County Executive Kittleman, the County Council, and the Director of Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), Val Lazdins. We now find ourselves in a position to again fight our way through another ZRA on industrial mulch/composting, this time in the form of ZRA 180, officially introduced as CB60-2017 on June 22 by DPZ on behalf of County Executive Kittleman. CB-60 as it currently reads presents many opportunities for industrial mulching to occur that will put rural families at risk for many safety and health concerns, and is therefore unacceptable to the rural communities throughout Howard County.

As a community, each and every one of us needs to make the necessary time to do our part for the cause. First up for a strong showing is the community meeting to be held this **Thurs June 29 at Dayton Oaks Elementary School from 7-9pm** in the cafeteria to provide an important update and call to action (press will be in attendance). We will walk through all that has transpired since 2014 and lay out what lies ahead over the next five weeks. At that meeting we will request that EVERYONE send an email to the County Council over the next week to express your concern over CB-60 and call for amendments to protect the rural communities it will put at risk as it currently stands (that Council email address is councilmail@howardcountymd.gov). You can also access the Council email address directly through the <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov> website and navigating to the active link to 'Email all Council Members' through the 'Contact Us' tab across the top bar.

Next step will be, for everyone willing, to **sign up on July 5 to testify Mon July 17 at the first County Council meeting** that will take place then (Banneker Room, George Howard Building). You can sign up to testify at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov> by clicking on 'Testify' along the top bar. You will have up to 3 minutes (you do not need to use the entire time) at the County Council meeting on July 17 to tell the council why you think CB-60 is a bad idea for Howard County.

We are urging everyone to make plans to overflow the Banneker Room as a strong show of support for **our opposition to CB-60 without major amendments**. We need **1,000 people** to be present on July 17. From that meeting to introduce the legislation and for those who signed up July 5 to testify, the County Council will hold another session to vote on the legislation two weeks later. That Council meeting (also in the Banneker Room) will take place on Mon July 31. It is imperative we have an

amazing, even astounding, turnout of **1,000 people also on July 31** to ensure the full County Council feels the weight of our strong opposition as they vote on this important zoning legislation.

County Executive Kittleman made a strong campaign promise back in 2014 when we gave him a platform to voice his position on the issue of industrial mulching. He publicly stated:

"In response to your inquiry regarding industrial mulching on agricultural farm land, I can unequivocally state that I am opposed. There have been three major public hearings on this issues: one at Dayton Oaks Elementary School, one in Sykesville and another at the Ten Oaks Ballroom with an estimated attendance of over five hundred, where I stated that I firmly opposed industrial mulching. As County Executive, I will actively continue my opposition."

From the content of CB-60 that was presented by County Executive Kittleman, we are very disappointed that he has not even kept half of his campaign promise, at best. This new industrial mulch/composting legislation does NOT include any restrictions on State of MD (MALPF) ag preserve farmland. Essentially half of Howard County is State of MD ag, with the other half Howard County ag (ALPP). The county council, with Calvin Ball as Chair, introduced **Amendment 5** to CB-20 which prohibits industrial mulching on MD ag farmland. We argued then, and again now, that not addressing both MD and Howard County ag farmland is tantamount to fencing only half of your yard and expecting that to prevent things from wandering in.

Beyond this huge oversight, which is intentional negligence in our opinion, there are loopholes in the current CB-60 that will allow industrial mulching and industrial composting to occur. We will talk more on June 29 and in the coming weeks about what amendments are absolutely needed to keep order to this industrial mulching issue. As it stands, industrial operators playing farmer in disguise will be able to purchase ag preserve on the cheap, only to move their industrial processes onto the farmland and into your communities, to present risks to families that we simply will NOT accept.

To quickly recap, **please plan on taking action on these dates:**

June 29, 7-9pm. Attend community meeting at Dayton Oaks Elementary School.

July 5, online. Sign up to testify at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov> by clicking on 'Testify' along the top bar. You will have up to 3 minutes at the County Council meeting on July 17 to tell the council why you think CB-60 is a bad idea for Howard County.

July 17, 7pm. Attend County Council meeting at George Howard Building, Banneker Room, to show opposition for CB-60. We need 1,000+ people here.

July 31, 7pm. Attend County Council meeting at George Howard Building, Banneker Room, as County Council votes on CB-60. We need 1,000+ people here.

We will need to be more unified and more widespread in our opposition than ever before to achieve success again. Please spread the word to your family, friends and colleagues that live anywhere in Howard County, and not just the rural West, since this is truly a countywide issue. With appreciation for the sacrifices each of you will make over the next five weeks,

Best,
John Tegeris, PhD
President, DRPS