

INTRODUCED 7/3/17
PUBLIC HEARING 7/17/17
COUNCIL ACTION 7/26/17
EXECUTIVE ACTION 7/27/17
EFFECTIVE DATE 7/27/17

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 10

Bill No. 57-2017

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT approving and providing for a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement by Howard County, Maryland to acquire development rights in approximately 50.09 acres of agricultural land located on the east side of Manor Lane, Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland, from the Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust- 2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008, and the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008 or any other owner thereof for a maximum purchase price of \$1,303,400.00 or, if less, not more than \$26,020.00 per acre or portion thereof, rounded to the next highest \$100, plus interest on the deferred portion of such purchase price; providing that the County's obligation to pay such purchase price and interest on the deferred portion of such purchase price shall be a full faith and credit general obligation of the County; providing for the levying of taxes for such payments; authorizing the County Executive to modify such Agreement; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith.

Introduced and read first time July 3, 2017. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on July 17, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on July 26 2017 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 26th day of July, 2017 at 2 a.m./p.m.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive July 27, 2017

Alan H. Kittleman
Alan H. Kittleman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Recitals**

2 In accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Charter of Howard County
3 (the "Charter"), Howard County, Maryland (the "County") has included in its Capital
4 Budget for fiscal year 2017 a capital project (Project No. G-0163) permitting the County to
5 enter into installment purchase agreements to acquire development rights in agricultural
6 lands located within the County, which Capital Budget was adopted by the County Council
7 of Howard County (the "County Council") in accordance with the Charter.

8 Section 612 of the Charter provides that "any contract, lease or other obligation
9 requiring the payment of funds from appropriations of a later fiscal year shall be made or
10 approved by ordinance", and Section 616 of the Charter provides that evidences of
11 indebtedness may be sold by private negotiated sale if the County Council shall find and
12 determine that it is not practical to sell such evidences of indebtedness at public sale; and
13 pursuant to (a) Article VI of the Charter, (b) Sections 15.500 to 15.521, inclusive, of the
14 Howard County Code (the "Agricultural Land Preservation Act") and (c) Council Bill No.
15 31-2013, enacted on May 31, 2013 and effective on July 31, 2013 or Council Bill No. 47-
16 2017, enacted on June 1, 2017 and effective on August 1, 2017 (whichever is then in effect,
17 the "Authorizing Act"), the County has been authorized and empowered to enter into such
18 installment purchase agreements for a remaining purchase price of not more than
19 \$29,801,632, plus interest thereon.

20 The Authorizing Act provides that the County Council, by an ordinance or
21 ordinances adopted from time to time in accordance with Section 612 of the Charter and
22 other applicable provisions of law, shall approve and provide for (a) the acquisition of the
23 development rights in each particular parcel of agricultural property which is to be the
24 subject of an installment purchase agreement, (b) the form and content of each installment
25 purchase agreement, including, without limitation, (i) the aggregate purchase price
26 thereunder (or the maximum aggregate purchase price and the method of determining the
27 final purchase price subject to such limitation) and the date of payments of installments of

1 the purchase price (not exceeding twenty years from the date of execution and delivery of
2 such installment purchase agreement), (ii) the interest rate or rates per annum (or the method
3 of determining such rate or rates) payable on any such installment purchase agreement from
4 time to time, and (iii) the required signatures on such documents.

5 The County has now determined to enter into an Installment Purchase Agreement
6 with the Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian
7 Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust- 2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008, and
8 the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust - 2008, or any other person who is or becomes the
9 owner of all or any portion of the Land (hereinafter defined) prior to execution and delivery
10 of such Agreement, in order to acquire the development rights in approximately 50.09 acres,
11 more or less, of agricultural land located on the east side of Manor Lane, Ellicott City,
12 Howard County, Maryland (the "Land") for an aggregate purchase price not in excess of
13 \$1,303,400.00 plus interest on the unpaid balance of such purchase price, as hereinafter
14 provided. The actual amount of the purchase price shall be equal to the lesser of such
15 maximum amount or not more than \$26,020.00 times the number of acres in such land,
16 rounded to the next highest \$100.00, all upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

17 **Now, therefore:**

18 **Section 1. Be it enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,**

19 (a) That Howard County, Maryland (the "County") is authorized to enter
20 into an Installment Purchase Agreement (the "Installment Purchase Agreement") with the
21 Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian
22 Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust- 2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008, and
23 the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008, or any other person who is or becomes the owner
24 of all or any portion of the Land prior to the execution and delivery of the Installment
25 Purchase Agreement (the "Sellers"), in order to acquire the development rights in the Land
26 as part of Capital Project No. G-0163, for an aggregate purchase price not in excess of
27 \$1,303,400.00 (the "Purchase Price"), plus interest on the Deferred Purchase Price

1 (hereinafter defined) as hereinafter provided; provided that the actual amount of the
2 Purchase Price shall be equal to the lesser of such maximum amount not more than
3 \$26,020.00 multiplied by the number of acres in the Land, rounded to the next highest
4 \$100.00.

5 (b) The Installment Purchase Agreement shall be in substantially the form
6 attached as Exhibit I hereto. Such form of Installment Purchase Agreement is incorporated
7 herein by reference and in such form the Installment Purchase Agreement is hereby
8 approved as to form and content. The Installment Purchase Agreement shall be dated as of
9 the date of execution and delivery thereof by the County and the Sellers (the "Closing
10 Date").

11 (c) A portion of the Purchase Price equal to 5% of the total Purchase Price
12 shall be paid to the Sellers on the Closing Date. The balance of the Purchase Price (the
13 "Deferred Purchase Price") shall be paid to the Sellers or its assignee in twenty (20) equal
14 annual installments beginning on August 15, 2018, and continuing on August 15 of each
15 year thereafter to and including August 15, 2037. If the Closing Date is on or after August
16 1, 2018, then the first annual installment shall be payable on the first interest payment date
17 after the Closing Date.

18 (d) Interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price shall
19 accrue from the Closing Date and shall be payable semiannually on February 15 and August
20 15 in each year, commencing on the first of such dates to follow the Closing Date and
21 continuing to and including the date of payment of the final installment of the Deferred
22 Purchase Price at the interest rate of 2.1937% per annum. Interest shall be calculated on the
23 basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

24 (e) The County's obligation to pay the Deferred Purchase Price under the
25 Installment Purchase Agreement and to pay interest thereon is and shall be a general
26 obligation of the County and is and shall be made upon its full faith and credit.

1 **Section 2. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
2 **Maryland,** That it is hereby found and determined that:

3 (a) The acquisition of the development rights in the Land as set forth in
4 Section 1 of this Ordinance and in the form of the Installment Purchase Agreement attached
5 hereto is in the best interest of the County.

6 (b) The Installment Purchase Agreement is a contract providing for the
7 payment of funds at a time beyond the fiscal year in which it is made and requires the
8 payment of funds from appropriations of later fiscal years.

9 (c) Funds for the payment of the Purchase Price under the Installment
10 Purchase Agreement are included in the Capital Budget as part of Project No. G-0163.

11 (d) The development rights in the Land shall be acquired by the County and
12 extinguished and the covenants in the Deed of Agricultural Land Preservation shall remain
13 on the Land in perpetuity.

14 (e) The Purchase Price is within the legal limitation on the indebtedness of
15 the County as set forth in Article VI of the Charter.

16 (f) The cost of acquiring the development rights in the Land is equal to the
17 Purchase Price.

18 (g) The Purchase Price was established by the Agricultural Land
19 Preservation Board in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Land Preservation
20 Act and agreed to by the Sellers.

21 **Section 3. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
22 **Maryland,** That upon agreement with the Sellers, the Installment Purchase Agreement shall
23 be signed by the County Executive of the County (the "County Executive") by his manual
24 signature, and the Installment Purchase Agreement shall bear the corporate seal of the
25 County, attested by the manual signature of the Chief Administrative Officer of the County
26 (the "Chief Administrative Officer"). In the event that any officer whose signature shall
27 appear on the Installment Purchase Agreement shall cease to be such officer before the

1 delivery of the Installment Purchase Agreement, such signature shall nevertheless be valid
2 and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if such officer had remained in office until
3 delivery.

4 **Section 4. And be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
5 **Maryland,** That the County Executive is hereby authorized, prior to execution and delivery
6 of the Installment Purchase Agreement, to make such changes or modifications in the form
7 of the Installment Purchase Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference
8 as may be required or deemed appropriate by him in order to accomplish the purpose of the
9 transactions authorized by this Ordinance; provided that such changes shall be within the
10 scope of the transactions authorized by this Ordinance; and the execution of the Installment
11 Purchase Agreement by the County Executive shall be conclusive evidence of the approval
12 by the County Executive of all changes or modifications in the form of the Installment
13 Purchase Agreement and the due execution of the Installment Purchase Agreement on
14 behalf of the County, and the Installment Purchase Agreement shall thereupon become
15 binding upon the County in accordance with its terms, as authorized by Article VI of the
16 Charter, Sections 15.500 to 15.521, inclusive, of the Howard County Code and the
17 Authorizing Act (collectively, the "Enabling Legislation"), and as provided for in this
18 Ordinance.

19 **Section 5. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
20 **Maryland,** That the County Executive, the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of
21 Finance and other officials of the County are hereby authorized and empowered to do all
22 such acts and things and to execute, acknowledge, seal and deliver such documents and
23 certificates, as the County Executive may determine to be necessary to carry out and comply
24 with the provisions of this Ordinance subject to the limitations set forth in the Enabling
25 Legislation and any limitations set forth in this Ordinance.

26 **Section 6. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
27 **Maryland,** That Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company is hereby designated and

1 appointed as registrar and paying agent for the Installment Purchase Agreement (the
2 "Registrar"). The Registrar shall maintain or cause to be maintained books of the County
3 for the registration and transfer of ownership of the Installment Purchase Agreement. In
4 addition, the County may from time to time, designate and appoint the Department of
5 Finance of the County, any officer or employee of the County or one or more banks, trust
6 companies, corporations or other financial institutions to act as a substitute or alternate
7 registrar or paying agent for the Installment Purchase Agreement, and any such substitute or
8 alternate shall be deemed to be the Registrar or an alternate Registrar for all purposes
9 specified in the resolution appointing such substitute or alternate. Any such appointment
10 shall be made by the County Council by resolution; and the exercise of such power of
11 appointment, no matter how often, shall not be an exhaustion thereof.

12 **Section 7. Be if further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
13 **Maryland,** That for the purpose of paying the installments of the Purchase Price when due
14 and payable and the interest on the unpaid portion of the Deferred Purchase Price when due
15 and payable, there is hereby levied and there shall hereafter be levied in each fiscal year that
16 any portion of the Purchase Price payable under the Installment Purchase Agreement
17 remains outstanding, ad valorem taxes on real and tangible personal property and intangible
18 property subject to taxation by the County without limitation of rate or amount and, in
19 addition, upon such other intangible property as may be subject to taxation by the County
20 within limitations prescribed by law, in an amount sufficient, together with the portion of the
21 transfer tax imposed on transfers of real property in Howard County which is dedicated to
22 agricultural land preservation and other available funds, to pay any installment of the
23 Purchase Price under the Installment Purchase Agreement maturing during the succeeding
24 year and to pay the annual interest on the outstanding balance of the Deferred Purchase
25 Price until the total Purchase Price under the Installment Purchase Agreement and such
26 interest have been paid in full; and the full faith and credit and the unlimited taxing power of
27 the County are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the Purchase Price

1 under the Installment Purchase Agreement and the interest on the unpaid balance of the
2 Deferred Purchase Price as and when the same respectively become due and payable.

3 **Section 8. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**
4 **Maryland,** That this Ordinance shall take effect on the date of its enactment.

THE ZIEGLER FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST FBO ALEXANDRA NINA ZIRSCHKY
AND JOHN CHRISTIAN ZIRSCHKY, THE JESSICA ZIEGLER TRUST - 2000,
THE SIMON RAY ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST- 2008, AND
THE REED E. ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST - 2008

the Sellers

and

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

the County

INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT
(Agreement No. 201__ - __)

EXHIBIT I

FORM OF INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(This Table of Contents is not part of the Installment Purchase Agreement and is only for convenience of reference)

Section	Page
RECITALS	1
AGREEMENTS	1
ARTICLE I	1
SECTION 1.1. Definitions	2
SECTION 1.2. Rules of Construction.....	4
ARTICLE II	4
SECTION 2.1. Agreement to Sell and Purchase Development Rights.....	4
SECTION 2.2. Delivery of Deed of Easement.....	4
ARTICLE III	4
SECTION 3.1. Payment of Total Purchase Price	4
SECTION 3.2. Registration and Transfer of this Agreement.....	5
SECTION 3.3. Mutilated, Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Agreement.....	6
ARTICLE IV	7
SECTION 4.1. Representations and Warranties of the County.....	7
SECTION 4.2. Representations and Warranties of the Original Sellers	7
ARTICLE V	8
SECTION 5.1. Intent of County and Tax Covenant of County	8
SECTION 5.2. Acknowledgment of Sellers with Regard to Tax Consequences of Transaction.....	8
ARTICLE VI	9
SECTION 6.1. Appointment of Registrar.....	9
SECTION 6.2. Ownership of Agreement.....	9
SECTION 6.3. Removal of Registrar and Appointment of Successor Registrar.....	9
SECTION 6.4. Qualifications of Successor Registrar	9
SECTION 6.5. Successor by Merger or Consolidation.....	9
ARTICLE VII	9

SECTION 7.1.	Successors of County.....	9
SECTION 7.2.	Parties in Interest.....	10
SECTION 7.3.	Binding Effect.....	10
SECTION 7.4.	Severability.....	10
SECTION 7.5.	Prior Agreements Cancelled; No Merger.....	10
SECTION 7.6.	Amendments, Changes and Modifications.....	10
SECTION 7.7.	No Personal Liability of County Officials.....	10
SECTION 7.8.	Governing Law.....	10
SECTION 7.9.	Notices.....	10
SECTION 7.10.	Holidays.....	12

-
- EXHIBIT A - Form of Deed of Agricultural Land Preservation Easement
 - EXHIBIT B - Description of Land
 - EXHIBIT C - Permitted Encumbrances
 - EXHIBIT D - Form of Assignment
 - EXHIBIT E - Transfer of Agreement - Schedule of Transferees

INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT

(Agreement No. 201__-__)

THIS INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT is made as of the ____ day of _____, 201__ between the ZIEGLER FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST FBO ALEXANDRA NINA ZIRSCHKY AND JOHN CHRISTIAN ZIRSCHKY, THE JESSICA ZIEGLER TRUST - 2000, THE SIMON RAY ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST- 2008, AND THE REED E. ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST - 2008 (each a "Seller" and collectively, the "Sellers"), and HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, a body corporate and politic of the State of Maryland (the "County").

RECITALS

A. Pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 15.501 to 15.510, inclusive, of the Howard County Code, as amended, the County is authorized to protect and enhance agricultural land in Howard County, Maryland by purchasing the development rights (as defined therein) in agricultural lands located within the County.

B. The Sellers are owners in fee simple of certain agricultural real property located in Howard County, Maryland and more particularly described in Exhibit B hereto (the "Land"). The Sellers have offered to sell to the County the Sellers' development rights in the Land and the County has accepted such offer, all upon and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement.

C. The total purchase price payable for the Sellers' development rights shall be \$_____ (the "Total Purchase Price"). A portion of the Total Purchase Price in the amount of \$_____ shall be paid to the Sellers on the date hereof, and the balance of the Total Purchase Price in the amount of \$_____ (the "Deferred Purchase Price") shall be payable to the Sellers in 20 annual installments as provided herein.

D. The County will receive the Sellers' development rights in the Land for conservation purposes, which includes the preservation of farm land, forest land and open space, pursuant to the County's conservation policy and to enhance agriculture in Howard County and protect natural and ecological resources.

E. Except for the limited transferability described in the Deed of Easement referred to herein, the transfer by the Sellers of their development rights in the Land shall be in perpetuity.

AGREEMENTS

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged, the Sellers and the County hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1.1. Definitions. As used in this Agreement, the following terms have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

“Agricultural Use” means farming and includes:

- (1) Dairying, pasturage, growing crops, bee keeping, horticulture, floriculture, orchards, plant nurseries, viticulture, silviculture, aquaculture, and animal and poultry husbandry;
- (2) The breeding, raising, training and general care of livestock for uses other than food, such as sport or show purposes;
- (3) Construction and maintenance of barns, silos and other similar structures, the use of farm machinery, the primary processing or agricultural products and the sale of agricultural products produced on the Land; and
- (4) Other uses directly related to or as an accessory use of the Land for farming and agricultural purposes.

“Approval Ordinance” means Council Bill No. ___-2017, passed by the County Council at a regular meeting duly called and held on _____, 2017 and approved by the County Executive and effective on _____, 2017

“Business Day” or “business day” means a day on which (a) banks located in each of the cities in which the principal office of the County or the Registrar is located are not required or authorized by law or executive order to close for business, and (b) The New York Stock Exchange is not closed.

“Closing Date” means the date of this Agreement, which is the date of execution and delivery of this Agreement by the parties hereto.

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Each reference to the Code herein shall be deemed to include the United States Treasury Regulations in effect or proposed from time to time with respect thereto.

“County” means Howard County, Maryland, a body corporate and politic and a political subdivision created and existing under and by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State, its successors and assigns.

“County Council” means the County Council of Howard County, Maryland.

“County Executive” means the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland.

“Deed of Easement” means the Deed of Agricultural Land Preservation Easement dated the Closing Date from the Sellers to the County, which shall convey the Development Rights to the

County in perpetuity. The Deed of Easement shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

“Deferred Purchase Price” means \$_____, the deferred portion of the Total Purchase Price to be paid by the County to the Registered Owner in accordance with this Agreement.

“Development Rights” means the rights of the Sellers in the Land to develop the Land for any purpose other than Agricultural Uses. “Development Rights” shall include, but not be limited to, the right to use the Land for industrial or commercial uses, for residential purposes (except as set forth in Sections 15.500 to 15.521, inclusive, of the Howard County Code, as amended), or the storage or depositing of trash, junk, rubbish or debris.

“Enabling Legislation” means, collectively, (1) Article VI of the Howard County Charter, (2) Sections 15.500 to 15.521, inclusive, of the Howard County Code, as amended, and (3) [Council Bill No. 31-2013, passed by the County Council on May 23, 2013, approved by the County Executive and enacted on May 31, 2013 and effective on July 31, 2013.] [Council Bill No. 47-2017, passed by the County Council on May 24, 2017, approved by the County Executive and enacted on June 1, 2017, and effective on August 1, 2017.]

“Interest Payment Date” means February 15 and August 15 in each year, commencing _____, 201__.

“Land” means the tract of land located in Howard County, Maryland, containing approximately ___ acres, and more particularly described in Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part thereof; provided, however, that if any lot is released from the encumbrance of the Deed of Easement in accordance with the terms hereof, such lot so released shall not thereafter be considered to be part of the Land.

“Permitted Encumbrances” means the encumbrances listed on Exhibit C attached hereto and made a part hereof and any encumbrances on or with respect to the Land or any portion thereof hereafter approved by the County.

“Person” or “person” means any natural person, firm, association, corporation, company, trust, partnership, public body or other entity.

“Registered Owner” means the registered owner of this Agreement as shown on the registration books maintained by the Registrar.

“Registrar” means Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, a New York banking corporation, or any other person hereafter appointed by the County to act as Registrar and paying agent for this Agreement.

“Sellers” means the the Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust- 2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust- 2008, and the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust - 2008, and their respective successors and assigns.

“State” means the State of Maryland.

“Total Purchase Price” means \$_____, the total purchase price to be paid by the County to the Registered Owner in accordance with this Agreement.

SECTION 1.2. Rules of Construction. The words “hereof”, “herein”, “hereunder”, “hereto”, and other words of similar import refer to this Agreement in its entirety.

The terms “agree” and “agreements” contained herein are intended to include and mean “covenant” and “covenants”.

References to Articles, Sections, and other subdivisions of this Agreement are to the designated Articles, Sections, and other subdivisions of this Agreement.

The headings of this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not define or limit the provisions hereof.

All references made (a) in the neuter, masculine or feminine gender shall be deemed to have been made in all such genders, and (b) in the singular or plural number shall be deemed to have been made, respectively, in the plural or singular number as well.

ARTICLE II SALE AND PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

SECTION 2.1. Agreement to Sell and Purchase Development Rights. The Sellers agree to sell the Development Rights to the County and the County agrees to purchase the Development Rights from the Sellers on the date hereof for a purchase price of \$_____ (the “Total Purchase Price”).

SECTION 2.2. Delivery of Deed of Easement. In order to evidence the sale of the Development Rights to the County, the Sellers shall execute and deliver to the County on the Closing Date the Deed of Easement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof. The Deed of Easement shall be recorded among the Land Records of Howard County, Maryland.

ARTICLE III PAYMENT OF TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE

SECTION 3.1. Payment of Total Purchase Price.

(a) The County shall pay a portion of the Total Purchase Price in the amount of \$_____ to the Sellers on the Closing Date and shall pay the Deferred Purchase Price to the Registered Owner in 20 equal installments of \$_____ on August 15, 2018 and on the same day of each year thereafter to and including August 15, 2037.

(b) Interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price shall accrue from the date hereof and shall be payable to the Registered Owner on [February 15] [August 15], 201__ and semiannually thereafter on February 15 and August 15 in each year to and including August 15, 2037 at the rate of 2.1937% per annum. Interest shall be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. No interest shall be payable on the portion of the Total Purchase Price payable on the Closing Date.

(c) The Total Purchase Price and the interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price are payable in lawful money of the United States of America, at the time of payment.

(d) Payment of interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price and payments of the annual installments of the Deferred Purchase Price shall be made by the County on each Interest Payment Date to the Registrar. The Registrar shall forward all such payments (other than the final installment of the Deferred Purchase Price) to the person appearing on the books of the County maintained by the Registrar as the Registered Owner, by check or draft mailed to the Registered Owner at the address of the Registered Owner as it appears on such registration books or, if the Registered Owner is a trustee who has issued certificates of participation in this Agreement, by wire transfer to such Registered Owner to the bank account number on file with the Registrar on the tenth day before the applicable Interest Payment Date, or if such tenth day is not a Business Day, the Business Day next preceding such day. The final installment of the Deferred Purchase Price shall be paid by the Registrar to the Registered Owner upon presentation and surrender of this Agreement at the office of the Registrar.

(e) The County's obligation to make payments of the Total Purchase Price hereunder and to pay interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price is a general obligation of the County, and the full faith and credit and the unlimited taxing power of the County are irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the Deferred Purchase Price and the interest on the unpaid balance of the Deferred Purchase Price as and when the same respectively become due and payable.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if the Registered Owner assigns its right, title and interest in and to this Agreement to a trustee in connection with the creation of a trust by such Registered Owner and the issuance of certificates of participation in this Agreement by such trustee, such trustee shall be, and shall be listed on the registration books maintained by the Registrar as, the Registered Owner of this Agreement, and all payments to be made under this Agreement after the creation of such trust shall be made directly to such trustee.

SECTION 3.2. Registration and Transfer of this Agreement.

(a) Until the Deferred Purchase Price and all interest thereon have been paid in full, the County shall maintain and keep at the offices of the Registrar, registration books for the registration and transfer of this Agreement; and upon presentation of this Agreement for such purpose at the offices of the Registrar, the Registrar shall register or cause to be registered on such registration books, and permit to be transferred thereon, under such reasonable regulations as the County or the Registrar may prescribe, the ownership of this Agreement.

(b) The original Sellers are collectively the original Registered Owner. This Agreement shall be transferable only upon the books of the County maintained for such purpose by the Registrar, at the written request of the Registered Owner as then shown on such registration books or their attorney duly authorized in writing, upon presentation and surrender thereof, together with a written instrument of transfer substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit D, or as may otherwise be satisfactory to and approved by the Registrar in writing, duly executed by the Registered Owner or their attorney duly authorized in writing. Upon the surrender for transfer of this Agreement, the Registrar shall complete the Schedule of Transferees attached hereto as Exhibit E with the name, address and tax identification number of the transferee Registered Owner, the date of the transfer and the outstanding principal balance of the Deferred Purchase Price as of the date of transfer; provided, however, that if there is any conflict between the information set forth in Exhibit E hereto and the registration books maintained by the Registrar, the information shown on such registration books shall control.

The County and the Registrar may deem and treat the person in whose name this Agreement is registered upon the books of the County maintained by the Registrar as the absolute owner of this Agreement, whether any payments hereunder shall be overdue or not, for the purpose of receiving payment of, or on account of, the Deferred Purchase Price and interest thereon and for all other purposes, and all such payments so made to any such Registered Owner or upon its order shall be valid and effectual to satisfy and discharge the liability upon this Agreement to the extent of the sum or sums so paid, and neither the County nor the Registrar shall be affected by any notice to the contrary.

For every registration of transfer of this Agreement, the County or the Registrar may make a charge sufficient to reimburse themselves for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or transfer, which sum or sums shall be paid by the person requesting such transfer as a condition precedent to the exercise of the privilege of registering such transfer.

SECTION 3.3. Mutilated, Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Agreement. In the event that this Agreement is mutilated, lost, stolen or destroyed, the County and the Registered Owner (as then shown on the registration books maintained by the Registrar) shall execute a substitute for this Agreement having the same terms as that of this Agreement mutilated, lost, stolen or destroyed; provided that, in the case of any mutilated Agreement, such mutilated Agreement shall first be surrendered to the Registrar, and, in the case of any lost, stolen or destroyed Agreement there shall be first furnished to the County and the Registrar evidence of such loss, theft or destruction satisfactory to the County and the Registrar, together with indemnity satisfactory to each of them in their sole discretion. The County and the Registrar may charge the Registered Owner requesting such new Agreement their expenses and reasonable fees, if any, in this connection. If after the delivery of such substitute Agreement, a bona fide purchaser of the original Agreement (in lieu of which such substitute Agreement was issued) presents for payment such original Agreement, the County and the Registrar shall be entitled to recover such substitute Agreement from the person to whom it was delivered or any other person who receives delivery thereof, except a bona fide purchaser, and shall be entitled to recover upon the security or indemnity provided therefor or

otherwise to the extent of any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred by the County and the Registrar in connection therewith.

ARTICLE IV REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

SECTION 4.1. Representations and Warranties of the County. The County makes the following representations and warranties:

(a) The County is a body corporate and politic and a political subdivision of the State of Maryland.

(b) The County has the necessary power and authority to acquire the Development Rights, to enter into this Agreement, to perform and observe the covenants and agreements on its part contained in this Agreement and to carry out and consummate all transactions contemplated hereby. By proper action, the County has duly authorized the execution and delivery of this Agreement.

(c) The Enabling Legislation and the Approval Ordinance authorize the County to enter into this Agreement, and this Agreement has been duly and properly authorized, executed, sealed and delivered by the County, constitutes the valid and legally binding obligation of the County, and is enforceable against the County in accordance with its terms.

(d) There are no proceedings pending before any court or administrative agency which may affect the authority of the County to enter into this Agreement.

SECTION 4.2. Representations and Warranties of the Original Sellers. The original Sellers make the following representations and warranties with respect to themselves, but not with respect to any transferee Registered Owner:

(a) The Sellers have full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and the Deed of Easement, and to incur and perform the obligations provided for herein and therein. No consent or approval of any person or public authority or regulatory body is required as a condition to the validity or enforceability of this Agreement or the Deed of Easement, or, if required, the same has been duly obtained.

(b) This Agreement and the Deed of Easement have been duly and properly executed by the Sellers, constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Sellers, and are fully enforceable against the Sellers in accordance with their respective terms.

(c) There is no litigation or proceeding pending or, so far as the Sellers know, threatened before any court or administrative agency which, in the opinion of the Sellers, will materially adversely affect the authority of the Sellers to enter into, or the validity or enforceability of, this Agreement or the Deed of Easement.

(d) There is (i) no provision of any existing mortgage, indenture, contract or agreement binding on the Sellers or affecting the Land, and (ii) to the knowledge of the Sellers, no

provision of law or order of court binding upon the Sellers or affecting the Land, which would conflict with or in any way prevent the execution, delivery, or performance of the terms of this Agreement or the Deed of Easement, or which would be in default or violated as a result of such execution, delivery or performance, or for which adequate consents, waivers or, if necessary, subordinations, have not been obtained.

(e) The Sellers are the sole owner and lawfully seized of a fee simple estate in the Land and have the right to grant and convey the easement conveyed pursuant to the Deed of Easement. Further, there exist no liens, security interests or other encumbrances on or with respect to the Land (other than Permitted Encumbrances), and the Sellers specially warrant and will defend the County's right, title and interest in and to the easement granted under the Deed of Easement.

(f) None of the Sellers is a nonresident alien of the United States of America for purposes of federal income taxation.

The representations in subsection (f) above are made under penalties of perjury and the information contained therein may be disclosed by the County to the Internal Revenue Service. The Sellers acknowledge that any false statement in such subsection could be punished by fine, imprisonment or both.

ARTICLE V
PROVISIONS RELATING TO EXCLUSION
OF INTEREST FROM INCOME FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION

SECTION 5.1. Intent of County and Tax Covenant of County. The County intends that the interest payable under this Agreement shall not be includible in the gross income of the Registered Owner for purposes of federal income taxation pursuant to Section 148 of the Code. Accordingly, the County shall not knowingly take or permit to be taken any other action or actions or omit or fail to take any action, which would cause this Agreement to be an "arbitrage bond" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Code, or which would otherwise cause interest payable under this Agreement to become includible in the gross income of any Registered Owner for purposes of federal income taxation pursuant to Section 148 of the Code.

SECTION 5.2. Acknowledgment of Sellers with Regard to Tax Consequences of Transaction. The Sellers have received an opinion from Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Bond Counsel, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that under existing laws, regulations, rulings and decisions, interest payable under this Agreement is not includible in the gross income of the Sellers for federal income tax purposes, which opinion assumes continuous compliance with certain covenants in the Tax Certificate and Compliance Agreement to be executed and delivered by the County on the Closing Date and is otherwise limited in accordance with its terms. The Sellers acknowledge that they have made their own independent investigation and have consulted with attorneys, accountants and others selected by them in their sole discretion with respect to all other tax considerations related to the transaction contemplated hereby (including, but not limited to, installment sales treatment under Section 453 of the Code, charitable contribution deductions under Section 170 of the Code, and federal estate tax implications); and the Sellers certify that they have not looked to or

relied upon the County or any of its officials, agents or employees, or to Bond Counsel, with respect to any of such matters.

ARTICLE VI THE REGISTRAR

SECTION 6.1. Appointment of Registrar. Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, a New York banking corporation, is hereby designated and appointed to act as Registrar for this Agreement.

SECTION 6.2. Ownership of Agreement. The Registrar, in its individual capacity or as trustee for holders of participation interests in this Agreement, may in good faith buy, sell, own and hold this Agreement, and may join in any action which any Registered Owner may be entitled to take with like effect as if it did not act as Registrar hereunder. The Registrar, in its individual capacity, either as principal or agent, may also engage in or be interested in any financial or other transaction with the County and may act as depository, trustee or agent for other obligations of the County as freely as if it did not act in any capacity hereunder.

SECTION 6.3. Removal of Registrar and Appointment of Successor Registrar. The County shall have the right, subject to the terms of any agreement with the Registrar, to remove the Registrar at any time by filing with the registrar to be removed, and with the Registered Owner, an instrument in writing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such removal shall not be effective until a successor Registrar has assumed the Registrar's duties hereunder.

SECTION 6.4. Qualifications of Successor Registrar. Any successor Registrar shall be either (a) the Department of Finance of the County, (b) an officer or employee of the County, or (c) a bank, trust company or other financial institution duly organized under the laws of the United States or any state or territory thereof which is authorized by law and permitted under the laws of the State to perform all the duties imposed upon it as Registrar by this Agreement.

SECTION 6.5. Successor by Merger or Consolidation. If the Registrar is a bank, trust company or other financial institution, any institution or corporation into which the Registrar hereunder may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger or consolidation to which the Registrar hereunder shall be a party or any institution or corporation succeeding to the corporate trust business (if any) of the Registrar, shall be the successor Registrar under this agreement, without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of the parties hereto, anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding.

ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 7.1. Successors of County. In the event of the dissolution of the County, all the covenants, stipulations, promises and agreements in this Agreement contained, by or on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the County, the Sellers, any other Registered Owner and the Registrar, shall bind or inure to the benefit of the successors of the County from time to time and any entity, officer,

board, commission, agency or instrumentality to whom or to which any power or duty of the County shall be transferred.

SECTION 7.2. Parties in Interest. Except as herein otherwise specifically provided, nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person, firm or corporation, other than the County, the Sellers, any other Registered Owner and the Registrar, any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement, this Agreement being intended to be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the County, the Sellers, any other Registered Owner from time to time of this Agreement and the Registrar.

SECTION 7.3. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, their successors and assigns, including, without limitation, all Registered Owners from time to time of this Agreement.

SECTION 7.4. Severability. In case any one or more of the provisions of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement and this Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein or therein.

SECTION 7.5. Prior Agreements Cancelled; No Merger. This Agreement and the Deed of Easement shall completely and fully supersede all other prior agreements, both written and oral, between the County and the Sellers relating to the acquisition of the Development Rights. Neither the County nor the Sellers shall hereafter have any rights under such prior agreements but shall look solely to this Agreement and the Deed of Easement for definitions and determination of all of its respective rights, liabilities and responsibilities relating to the Land, the Development Rights and the payment for the Development Rights. In addition, this Agreement shall survive the execution and recording of the Deed of Easement in all respects and shall not be merged therein.

SECTION 7.6. Amendments, Changes and Modifications. This Agreement may not be amended, changed, modified, altered or terminated except by an agreement in writing between the County and the then-Registered Owner. An executed counterpart of any such amendment shall be attached to this Agreement and shall be binding upon such Registered Owner and all successor Registered Owners.

SECTION 7.7. No Personal Liability of County Officials. No covenant or agreement contained in this Agreement shall be deemed to be the covenant or agreement of any official, officer, agent or employee of the County in his or her individual capacity, and neither the officers or employees of the County nor any official executing this Agreement shall be liable personally on this Agreement or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof.

SECTION 7.8. Governing Law. The laws of the State shall govern the construction and enforcement of this Agreement.

SECTION 7.9. Notices. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests, consents, approvals, certificates or other communications required under this Agreement to be in writing shall be sufficiently given and shall be deemed to have been properly

given three Business Days after the same is mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the person to whom any such notice, demand, request, approval, certificate or other communication is to be given, at the address for such person designated below:

County: Howard County, Maryland
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
Attention: Director of Finance

with a copy to:

County Solicitor
George Howard Building
3450 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sellers:

As to all:
Natalie Ziegler, Trustee
4288 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

THE ZIEGLER FAMILY IRREVOCABLE
TRUST FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John
Christian Zirschky
c/o Jessica Ziegler, Trustee
4288 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

THE JESSICA ZIEGLER TRUST- 2000
c/o Natalie Ziegler, Trustee
4288 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

THE SIMON RAY ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ
TRUST- 2008
c/o Sophie Ziegler, Jonathan Ian Schwartz, and
Natalie Ziegler, Trustees
4288 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

THE REED E. ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST -
2008
c/o Sophie Ziegler, Jonathan Ian Schwartz, and
Natalie Ziegler, Trustees
4288 Manor Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Registrar:

Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company
25 South Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Attention: Corporate Trust Department

Any of the foregoing may, by notice given hereunder to each of the others, designate any further or different addresses to which subsequent notices, demands, requests, consents, approvals, certificates or other communications shall be sent hereunder.

SECTION 7.10. Holidays. If the date for making any payment or the last date for performance of any act or the exercising of any right, as provided in this Agreement, shall not be a Business Day, such payment may, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, be made or act performed or right exercised on the next succeeding Business Day with the same force and effect as

if done on the nominal date provided in this Agreement, and in the case of payment no interest shall accrue for the period after such nominal date.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.]

Signature Page 1 of 2 to

INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT
(201__-__)

WITNESS the signatures and seals of the parties hereto as of the date first above written.

ZIEGLER FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John
Christian Zirschky

Witness:

By: _____
Jessica Ziegler, Trustee

JESSICA ZIEGLER TRUST-2000

Witness:

By: _____
Natalie Ziegler, Trustee

SIMON RAY ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST-

2008

Witness:

By: _____
Sophie Ziegler, Trustee

Witness:

By: _____
Jonathan Ian Schwartz, Trustee

Witness:

By: _____
Natalie Ziegler, Trustee

REED E. ZIEGLER SCHWARTZ TRUST-2008

Witness:

By: _____
Sophie Ziegler, Trustee

Witness:

By: _____
Jonathan Ian Schwartz, Trustee

Witness:

By: _____
Natalie Ziegler, Trustee

INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT
(201__-__)

WITNESS the signatures and seals of the parties hereto as of the date first above written.

[COUNTY'S SEAL]

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

ATTEST:

By: _____
Allan H. Kittleman,
County Executive

Lonnie R. Robbins,
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved for Form and Legal
Sufficiency this ____ day
of _____, 201__.

Approved for Sufficiency of
Funds:

Gary W. Kuc,
County Solicitor

Stanley J. Milesky,
Director, Department of Finance

Reviewed by:

Lisa S. O'Brien,
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

EXHIBIT A

FORM OF DEED OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION EASEMENT

EXHIBIT B

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

EXHIBIT C

PERMITTED ENCUMBRANCES

EXHIBIT D

ASSIGNMENT

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, _____ and
_____ ([collectively,] the "Sellers") hereby sell[s], assign[s] and
transfer[s] unto _____, without recourse, all of
the Sellers' right, title and interest in and to the Installment Purchase Agreement to which this
Assignment is attached; and the Sellers hereby irrevocably direct the Registrar (as defined in such
Agreement) to transfer such Agreement on the books kept for registration thereof. The Sellers
hereby represent[s], warrant[s] and [certify] [certifies] that there have been no amendments to such
Agreement [except _____].

Date: _____

WITNESS:

NOTICE: The signature on this Assignment
must correspond with of the name of the
Registered Owner as it appears on the
registration books for the Installment
Purchase Agreement referred to herein
in every particular, without alteration or
enlargement or any change whatever.

EXHIBIT E

TRANSFER OF AGREEMENT - SCHEDULE OF TRANSFEREES

The transfer of this Installment Purchase Agreement may be registered only by the Registered Owner under such Agreement in person or by its duly authorized officer or attorney upon presentation hereof to the Registrar, who shall make note thereof in the books kept for such purpose and in the registration blank below.

Date of Registration of Transfer	Name of Transferee Registered Owner	Outstanding Balance of Deferred Purchase Price	Signature of Registrar

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on July 27, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council



Howard County

Agricultural Land Preservation Program

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Testimony for the Ziegler Family Trust Property Installment Purchase Agreement

To: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Administration

Through: ✓ Valdis Lazdins, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

Through: Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Zoning BB

From: Joy Levy, Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator, Department of Planning and Zoning JL

Date: June 15, 2017

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports Council Bill No. -2017. This bill approves an Installment Purchase Agreement to acquire an agricultural preservation easement on property owned by the Ziegler Family Irrevocable Trust FBO Alexandra Nina Zirschky and John Christian Zirschky, the Jessica Ziegler Trust-2000, the Simon Ray Ziegler Schwartz Trust-2008 and the Reed E. Ziegler Schwartz Trust-2008. Section 15.507(g)(4) of the Howard County Code requires County Council approval of a multi-year Installment Purchase Agreement pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter.

The approval of an Installment Purchase Agreement for the Ziegler property would preserve 50.09 acres of wooded land in the County, adding to over 22,500 acres of farmland that have been preserved to date. This farm is desirable due to the significant amount of preserved land nearby.

The purchase price of the easement is \$1,303,400.00, however; when twice yearly interest payments are factored in, the overall cost of the Ziegler Family Trust acquisition will be \$ \$1,582,877.63. The funding comes from a portion of the transfer tax dedicated to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Having met all eligibility criteria for the acquisition of an agricultural preservation easement, staff supports Council Bill No. -2017 and hopes that the County Council moves to approve it. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Department of Administration
 Stanley Milesky, Director, Department of Finance
 Lisa O'Brien, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Office of Law
 Ziegler Family Trust File

Testimony of Richard Lober, 14076 Big Branch Drive, Dayton in response to CB57&58 on 17 July 2017

Good evening. My name is Richard Lober and I reside at 14076 Big Branch Drive in Dayton Maryland.

I have been involved in a variety of zoning regulation amendments that involve use of farmland placed into the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. This program allows the County to buy the development rights of farms in our community in order to preserve the farm for agricultural uses only - in perpetuity. Tonight two such bills are being considered for a total of 112 acres for which the County will purchase development rights for up to \$3.25 million dollars.

I fully support this program and these Council Bills as they provide great benefit to our farming community and the residents of Howard County. However, I want to highlight certain portions of these bills that restrict development rights and express my concern over the County's efforts to continue to water down these provisions through zoning law amendments. In fact, CB60 which will be discussed tonight, does just that as have other recent allowed uses on farms in agricultural preserve.

As I noted, these bills allow the County to purchase the Development Rights to the farm in order to allow the farm to remain in agricultural use for perpetuity. However, during my last few years discussing these issues with the community, there seems to be some confusion over what Development Rights means. Many feel that it ONLY limits the building of homes on these farms.

However, turning to page 2 of CB-58, the Definitions section, the bill states:

"Development Rights" means the rights of the seller in the land to develop the Land for ANY purpose other than Agricultural Uses. "Development Rights" shall include, but not be limited to, the right to use the Land for INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL USES, for residential purposes, or the storage or depositing of trash, junk, rubbish or debris. These are the rights the County is buying and the farm owner is forfeiting to preserve our farmlands.

Turning to page 2, the bill states that Agricultural Uses includes what most of us would consider farming activities (growing crops, breeding animals, and the sale of agricultural products produced on the land) along with:

"Other uses DIRECTLY RELATED TO or as an accessory use of the Land for FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

The deeds of trust that convey the development rights from the farm owner to the County also contain very similar language.

This all seems pretty clear cut – farming only, no homes AND no industrial OR COMMERCIAL uses for perpetuity; however, upon reading the Howard County Zoning Regulations, section 106 on Conditional uses allowed on ag preserve properties, the following is allowed on farms in the ag preservation program:

Lober

Page 2 of 2

July 17, 2017

Barber Shops, Hair Salons, Cell Towers, Animal Shelters, Commercial School Bus operations, Solar Facilities and if CB60 passes this month, commercial compost and mulching (NWWR) businesses.

It is hard to imagine how these relate to an accessory use of a farm for FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

My understanding and discussion with many of the farmers who have become part of this program is that they are proud that they themselves, their parents or even grandparents made this commitment to maintain the farm as an agricultural activity for perpetuity. I also understand that some of these uses were allowed by the County for side businesses that would help the farmer earn a respectable living in a very tough occupation.

However, cell towers, solar facilities, school bus operations and large scale commercial compost/mulch manufacturing and shipment are not farming activities or are any way related to an accessory agricultural use of the farm.

This continuing watering down of the zoning regulations has allowed commercial business owners to purchase these farms at a very low cost (given development rights have been forfeited), place commercial operations such as those noted above on these farms, and reap the tax benefits (\$0 Property taxes) associated with the ag preserve program instead of paying what would be much higher taxes for facilities that should be placed on M1/M2 lands.

In fact, the County, farmers and those operating commercial facilities on these properties may face consequences related to the tax exempt status of the property and some of the tax advantages related to the payments within the program if these restrictions are not enforced – a real travesty.

While I endorse CB57 and 58, I would ask the County to review, control and enforce the restrictions against commercial uses on ag preserve farms in order to allow the vast majority of the participants and all County residents to enjoy the benefits of the program while shutting down those who take advantage of it purely for financial gain at our Taxpayers expense.