
From: Mary Wilde <threedozendaisies@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB49-2024 Written Testimony

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Testimony in Support of CB49-2024 from Three Dozen Daisies Farm

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to voice my support for the emergency grants for farmers proposed in Hearing CB49-2024. This summer has been especially difficult due to a lack of consistent rainfall. The challenges posed by drought conditions included stunted growth, poor germination, failed transplants, poor fruit production, and unsellable produce. Additionally, the lack of precipitation left plants stressed and susceptible to disease and insect damage. This summer we saw extremely high levels of damaging insects that many plantings were not able to cope with due to their weakened state, and whole crops failed or had dramatically reduced production.

Examples of crop losses:

- Cucumbers turned bitter from lack of water and were unsellable,
- 80% of spring lettuce harvest was lost due to bolting from unseasonable heat wave,
- Entire zucchini crop failed in early August due to water, heat, and insect stressors,
- Cut flower production is currently reduced by about 50% and of poor quality due to lack of consistent water.

Our farm currently has irrigation lines in place for only 25% of the growing space; the remaining 75% of the crops must be watered by hand. It was impossible to provide adequate hand watering for weeks at a time for the non-irrigated crops given how time intensive that is. This grant would significantly assist us to lay additional irrigation lines so we can better respond to drought conditions and extreme heat in the future.

Context: Three Dozen Daisies Farm is a small family farm in Howard County, selling vegetables and flowers directly to local customers and wholesale to the Roving Radish Marketplace. We are currently in our third year of operation.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Mary Wilde
Three Dozen Daisies Farm
Woodbine, MD

From: Nia Smith <nsmith31@terpmail.umd.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 3:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Questions on Emergency Appropriation — Economic Development Authority — Farmers Grant

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Hello,

Hope all is well. My name is Nia Smith and I am a journalism student at the University of Maryland. For one of my classes I was assigned to write a class story on something that occurred during a local government meeting. After watching the meeting from **September 24**, I decided to write about the Emergency Appropriation — Economic Development Authority — Farmers Grant.

To write this story I need an expert source and would like to know if you can answer these questions or if you can forward this to the correct person:

- 1.
- 2.
3. What are some positive outcomes of approving this act? What are
4. the drawbacks?
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. What are some of the barriers preventing this from being approved?
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
12. If other counties were doing this would this change the progression
13. of how this process is going?
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. Deb Jung talked about how they were not asking for enough information
18. regarding the application for the money. What other information would she like to receive from the farmers when applying for the \$5000?
- 19.

Thank you so much and hope to hear from you soon.

Nia Smith