

Subject: FW: Council vote on industrial mulching

Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 4:50:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Debbie Burgio

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

Monday night was a great night for Howard County. Thank you so much for your co-sponsorship and vote for CB 20 and its amendment w/ amendments. It has been an eye-opening experience and a refreshing one to see people of a variety of political and economic perspectives come together and see a representative government functioning the way that it was envisioned to do. We all want what is best for all of the residents of the county. I have a much greater respect and appreciation for the balancing act you must perform as an elected official. I was really happy to make contact with one of the farmers Monday night and find out where his farm is so that the produce part of my grocery budget can support his organic farming efforts. It was another highlight for me.

I would also like to apologize for the tone of a section of my letter. As you know this has stirred up a lot of emotions. I am very thankful that the vote on these bills took place and it was not tabled. It was a rumor "out there." That led to a great deal of frustration.

Thanks again for all of your work on this very important matter to so many of us. I look forward to seeing the task force in action.

Respectfully,

Debbie Burgio

Subject: Thank You...

Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 3:37:18 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: johntegeris@juno.com

To: Ball, Calvin B, Fox, Greg, Sigaty, Mary Kay, Terrasa, Jen, Courtney Watson

CC: Pruim, Kimberly, Knight, Karen, Clay, Mary, Shopland, Jamie, Chaconas, Terry

Hi All,

On behalf of DRPS, I wanted to take a moment to thank our Council Members and your respective staff for working through an incredibly complex and challenging situation to arrive at what we believe is the right decision for the rural communities we represent. Equally important is the establishment of the Task Force to continue working through related issues to ensure we protect both quality of life for all citizens while protecting the rights of the true farmers in our great County to continue their existing farming operations unimpeded. We are thankful for a seat at the table and will approach the issues with continued professionalism for the discussions that will evolve as part of a continual improvement process.

On a personal note, I am extremely grateful for your accessibility to meet with us and intense focus to work through the many moving parts in such a short period of time. Your ability to do so while balancing fairness for all affected parties was truly extraordinary and a privilege to watch unfold.

The front end of my quote in the Baltimore Sun did not make it into print so I share it here given it speaks to the power of what you collectively have accomplished, by example, with our issue, "Our sincere thanks to the County Council for reaffirming our belief in the legislative process to do what is right for the people of Howard County when real changes are needed."

We look forward to continue serving both our County Council and the communities we represent in our new role on the Task Force. With much appreciation,

Best,
John

Subject: Note to Big Branch Community

Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 8:40:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Rick Lober

To: Fox, Greg, Sigaty, Mary Kay, Courtney Watson, Ball, Calvin B, Terrasa, Jen

CC: John Tegeris, Knight, Karen

County Council-

Thanks for working with us on this issue and we look forward to continued positive progress on the Task Force (after short break...).

Rick Lober (zoning lawyer in training...)

DRPS, LLC

Big Branch HOA

Note to our community follows:

Big Branch Neighbors-

If you have not heard by now, the Dayton Rural Preservation Society (DRPS) was successful in getting a zoning amendment passed that would prevent industrial mulching, soil processing and yard waste composting facilities from being placed on farms that are part of the Howard County or State of Maryland Agricultural Preservation Program. This was the result of working closely with the Howard County Council in sponsoring our own bill and amending a second bill, sponsored by our Councilman, Greg Fox. The final amended bill, which was passed by a 4-0 vote (1 absent), not only rolled the zoning regulations back to those in effect before last years changes (that allowed these new uses), but tightened them up in an effort to protect nearby residents from industrial facilities on our local farms in Ag Preserve while also making efforts to allow the farming community to meet their needs.

This new law, once signed by County Executive Ken Ulman, should stop the proposed 17 acre mulching/composting facility by JBRK, Inc. on the farm near our homes in addition to similar facilities that may operate on farms in the Maryland State Ag Preservation program. However, the Council did also propose a resolution to form a task force composed of residents (including DRPS), farmers, County experts and businessmen who operate such facilities to study the issue further and report back to the Council by Nov 15th 2014.

Big Branch HOA and DRPS believes this task force will be a positive step in promoting relations with our neighboring farmers and feels the outcome should help to adjust the zoning laws further to both protect nearby residents and allow farmers the right to processes needed in normal farming operations. The task force will also make recommendations on where such industrial mulch/composting facilities should be placed.

Out thanks to County Council members Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty and Courtney Watson for sponsoring the original bill and to County Council Chairman Dr. Calvin Ball for adjudicating the final amendments (6 in all) and vote.

DRPS expect to continue as a formal organization - going forward through the task force process and beyond. Big Branch HOA members will continue to participate in DRPS in an effort to better understand both the needs of residents near working farms and the needs of our farmer/neighbors, while pushing hard to keep industrial uses off of farms placed in Agricultural Preserve or very near residences.

Our thanks to Big Branch Board member and DRPS President John Tegeris for his never ending drive to stop these type of industrial facilities and leading our efforts to date along with the other DRPS, LLC members from our neighboring communities. Thanks also to all of you who testified at the various hearings, attended numerous Council

meetings to show your support and who donated your time, talent and treasure to our hard work to date. We could not have made it this far without you and it was a true Dayton/Western Howard County effort!

More to follow at our next annual HOA meeting on June 12th and we hope to see you all at the movie night this Saturday.

Rick Lober, President
Big Branch HOA Board

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Rick Lober
rick.lober@gmail.com
410-531-7479 (H)
858-774-5705 (C)

Subject: Proposed Mulching Plant

Date: Monday, June 2, 2014 at 11:04:19 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: ladddc@aol.com

To: Ball, Calvin B, Courtney Watson, Fox, Greg, Sigaty, Mary Kay, Terrasa, Jen

Members of the County Council,

I am writing with regards to the vote on Council Bill 20 and Council Bill 21. I urge the council members to vote for either bill, in support of the residents of Dayton, Glenelg, and surrounding areas.

It is obvious from the community involvement that area residents strongly feel industrial mulching does not belong on Agricultural Preserve land. Rather, such uses should be done on land that is zoned M1 or M2, as it is clearly manufacturing and not agriculture.

Mr. Orndorff's development plans would only have been possible with the zoning amendment that passed last summer. This, quite clearly, was a mistake. Western Howard County has set aside certain land as agricultural preserve and it should remain so. There are so many reasons to oppose Mr. Orndorff's development plans: the noise, air-borne wood particles, ground water contamination, traffic congestion, and declining property values are all reasons to support Mr. Fox's proposal to limit mulching on agricultural parcels. I understand that it is an election year and that the County Council has many interests to consider. I stand with Dayton, however, in firmly maintaining that Agricultural Preserve land should remain used for traditional farming.

To do otherwise perverts the intention of "Agricultural Preserve" land in the first place. Please vote accordingly, to keep Dayton rural.

Best regards,

Ladd Everitt
Silver Spring

Subject: Mulch production on land designated for agricultural preservation

Date: Monday, June 2, 2014 at 1:48:31 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: S Joan Murphy

To: Fox, Greg, Courtney Watson, Ball, Calvin B, Terrasa, Jen, Sigaty, Mary Kay

I wanted to take time to write to all of the members of the County Council to express my concern regarding the Council's upcoming consideration of amendments to the zoning regulations.

It is my understanding that the Department of Planning and Zoning has recommended an amendment to allow up to 10% of agricultural preserve land to be used for natural wood waste recycling (mulch manufacturing). The Council will also be considering amendments proposed by members of the council that would cap the amount of acres allowed for non-agricultural uses at 2%.

I believe Howard County's sound planning and zoning policy was vital in the past, and remains even more vital now. The integrity of the County's zoning policy is central to being able to continue maintaining a high level of economic growth balanced with an outstanding quality of life for its residents. This zoning policy has safeguarded the County's physical beauty through the establishment of the rural residential and rural conservation district.

Granting a conditional use for land that is part of a rural conservation district should be done only with the purpose of the district firmly in mind. As articulated in the Zoning Regulations, RC districts are established "to conserve farmland and to encourage agricultural activities" and "to preserve natural features and the rural landscape."

While "sawmill and mulch manufacture" is listed as a conditional use in an RC district, I believe 10% of a given parcel crosses into the realm of industrial use and is no longer agricultural.

Allowing this amount of acreage for a conditional use would most definitely go against the second stated purpose of preserving natural features and the rural landscape.

The reason for the establishment of rural conservation districts was twofold. Conditional uses granted on RC districts should be considered against BOTH of the elements, encouraging agricultural activities, but also respecting existing features of the rural landscape.

Industrial mulch manufacturing is not an appropriate conditional use for an RC district.

Thank you.

Joan Murphy
6118 Timothy Court
Columbia, MD 21044

Subject: Please Stop Industrial Mulching in HoCo

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 9:40:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Aaron Talbot

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Councilwoman Sigaty,

I am writing to urge you to consider the new legislation that is being presented by the Dayton Rural Preservation Society that will stop agricultural preserve land from being used to operate industrial mulching facilities. I grew up in Dayton for most of my life on Ten Oaks Rd. and still visit my parents there every week with my wife and three small children.

My parents have worked hard to provide a safe place for us to live and play and want the same for their grandchildren. I am greatly concerned about the damaging effects such a facility will have on air quality and the quality of the water table. I am also concerned about increased industrial traffic and declining home values.

Agricultural preserve land should do just that; preserve agriculture. Processing industrial waste on agricultural preserve land has absolutely nothing to do with farming and everything to do with profiting off of cheaper land at the expense of hard working middle class people in a beautiful rural community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my position on this matter.

Kind Regards,
Aaron Talbot
410-988-2369

Subject: Dayton Mulch/Compost issue

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 7:26:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: C Glennon

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you.

Corliss Glennon

Corliss Glennon
14014 Triadelphia Mill Road
Dayton, MD 21036
June 1, 2014

Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty
Council Member, Howard County
District 4

Dear Ms. Sigaty:

Howard County is not only the most noted county in Maryland but recognized as one of the top five counties nationally as well. This didn't happen by accident. It was due to a guiding policy of smart growth and quality of life for its residents.

The recent revisions to the original agricultural legislation and County Council Bill 20 provide for neither smart growth nor quality of life for us residents. Instead these revisions have opened a Pandora's Box releasing a multitude of detrimental possibilities, loopholes, and allowances that establishes serious negative precedents. The heart of this letter is the loophole and precedent that permits agricultural preservation farms to be sold to commercial business persons for their commercial enterprises, whatever those commercial enterprises may be. In the instance of Dayton it is a commercial manufacturing mulch/compost facility, an industry with documented hazards and pollutants. This type of industry belongs without question only in an area zoned for commercial industrial manufacturing –not residential neighborhoods.

It's unconscionable that this issue would even be discussed, that all those meetings had to take place, that this letter is being written. What are the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and our County Council thinking? While DPZ's decision is very disturbing, more disturbing is our Council's acceptance of this decision.

We voted in good faith and trust for those we believed would uphold these founding policies of smart growth and quality of life, that guidelines would remain in the forefront of all decisions regarding our county much like a physician's Hippocratic Oath, first do no harm. Yet harm is most decidedly what the DPZ's revisions and CB 20 is causing. The integrity of multiple communities is currently in jeopardy –and future county communities as well if this revised legislation is permitted to go forward.

You've seen the videos, the PowerPoints depicting the hazards of having this mulch/compost manufacturing facility in our midst. You've heard individuals and physicians testify as to the pollutants that will result. All of this was based on published reports and documents, scientific data and reports, medical papers and statistics. Our health, quality of life, and families are threatened, our environment is threatened, the integrity of our community is threatened. If this legislation stands, the growth we are presently experiencing will cease. Young families will not choose to purchase homes in

an area polluted by a commercial mulch/compost manufacturing industry and all it implies knowing their children will be attending area schools for twelve plus years in such an environment. Residential property values will plummet. In all honesty knowing this about a neighborhood would any one of you unhesitatingly purchase a home here? And if this or a similarly hazardous enterprise were to be proposed for your respective neighborhoods, how would you feel? Switch places. Sacrificing entire communities, sacrificing so many for a few is poor governance, poor policy, and poor judgment.

The revisions made to the original farm bill need to be revisited. The loopholes need to be addressed and the legal precedents that the current bill establishes absolutely must be closed to prevent the wide-open invitation for any commercial enterprise to relocate on our farmlands. This may not have been the intent of the revisions, but it's what it has become.

If time is needed to formulate a revised agricultural farm legislation that is both fair and just to all concerned, then please stay any furtherance of activity of this mulch/compost manufacturing facility during this period. And, please, do no harm. Smart growth and quality of life is what we hope for. Howard County is an exceptional county. Let's keep it so for all the right reasons.

Sincerely,

Corliss Glennon

Subject: Re: Amendment to Council Bill 20-2014

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 12:52:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: johntegeris@juno.com

To: Clay, Mary

CC: rick.lober@gmail.com, erin@contemps.com, Sigaty, Mary Kay, Fox, Greg, Knight, Karen

Hi Mary,

Hope all is well. My apologies for the delayed response to convey thanks for sending along the amendment that Mary Kay and Greg worked up together. Definitely crunch time, so we appreciate the visibility. We look forward to the County Council Hearing on Monday. Until then, thanks to all and to all a good weekend.

Best,

John

cell: 301-996-5102

----- Original Message -----

From: "Clay, Mary" <mclay@howardcountymd.gov>

To: Rick Lober <rick.lober@gmail.com>, John Tegeris <johntegeris@juno.com>, Erin Allen <erin@contemps.com>

Cc: "Sigaty, Mary Kay" <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>, "Fox, Greg" <gfox@howardcountymd.gov>, "Knight, Karen" <kknight@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: Amendment to Council Bill 20-2014

Date: Thu, 29 May 2014 21:33:06 +0000

Good afternoon,

Council Members Fox and Sigaty have filed an amendment to Council Bill 20-2014 which is attached to this email. The Council is expected to consider this amendment at its legislative session on Monday.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Have a good evening,

Mary

Mary T. Clay | Special Assistant to Mary Kay Sigaty

Howard County Council, District 4

3430 Court House Drive | Ellicott City, MD 21043

Subject: FW: Problem with Amendment
Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 at 2:14:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Clay, Mary
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

From: Knight, Karen
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Clay, Mary
Subject: FW: Problem with Amendment

FYI

Karen Knight

From: Rick Lober [mailto:rick.lober@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Fox, Greg; Knight, Karen; Wimberly, Theo
Cc: John Tegeris; Mike Navarre
Subject: Problem with Amendment

Greg-

We assume that you have written the amendment to not allow mulching on HoCo Ag Preserve – this seems to be the intention but there is an error on how the amendment is written.

In the amendment, on page 2, line 13 it is stated that lines 18-19 of CB-20 should be deleted and the remainder of the section re-numbered. Also strike the double brackets in line 22 and strike lines 23-27 in their entirety.

We suspect you are looking for this as an end result:

“The following conditional uses would be allowed:

List of items 1-11 (as is)

12 – Mulch, Sawmills, Firewood – eliminated (lines 18-19)

And the remaining uses renumbered 12-14 (busses, wind, solar)”

However, the modification of zoning regs states that deletions should be in double brackets and additions in caps. Since mulch was a deletion in the original CB-20 and now the amendment to CB-20 is stating that the deletion should be deleted, you are effectively adding it back.

We believe the zoning regs would look like this after the bill and amendment passes.

Conditional Uses:

List of items 1-11 (as is)

12 – Mulch, Sawmills, Firewood (added back)

And the remaining renumbered 12-14 as instructed (busses, wind, solar).

So in the end, you have mulch back in and the numbering wrong.

To delete mulch from ag lands the way the zoning amendment instructions state, the amendment should be written as follows:

Page 4, line 19 - add double brackets after the word processing (this then deletes Mulching)

Page 4, line 22 - remove double bracket after the word commercial and renumber items on lines 20, 21 and 22. (this then adds back busses, wind, solar and renumbers correctly)

Page 4, lines 23-27 - eliminate (this then eliminates NWWR and other uses re-stated above)

This would be done similarly on page 6 for other easements.

The end result is then:

Conditional uses:

List of Items 1-11 as it was

12 – Mulch – deleted

12-14 Busses, Wind, Solar

We feel this was a simple mistake, but if not corrected, mulching would be allowed on HoCo ag at up to 2% of the farm.

I realize this is tough to follow and can easily go over with you on the phone anytime this weekend.

Thanks

Rick

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Rick Lober

rick.lober@gmail.com

410-531-7479 (H)
858-774-5705 (C)

Subject: New amendment?

Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 at 2:05:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Brent Rutley

To: Fox, Greg, Sigaty, Mary Kay

Hello all!

Hope all is well.

I am definitely NOT the brightest bulb in the box, but this new amendment does exactly what the both of you asked me several weeks ago, "if it was going to harm us'?

Well, unless I'm reading this wrong, it limits my composting ability to about 20% of what I need in order to be effective, efficient and sustainable. As well as make it a conditional use, which adds even more bureaucratic non-sense to my every day life.

I will most assuredly be teachable if I'm wrong, but I'd like an explanation.

With warm regards

brent

Subject: Mulching Facility in Howard County

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 9:46:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Robert L. Jacobs

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear County Council Member Sigaty:

This past Sunday, my son and I returned home from a most delightful bicycle ride throughout Dayton, Maryland, which is where we live.

It was such a beautiful, sunny day with a slight breeze. The air was so fresh and clean with the aromas of hayfields, cattle, sheep, and horses. We even had several deer running across the roads in front of us, a very normal sight here in Dayton. As an avid cyclist, what I have just described is so very common here in Dayton. I absolutely love living here. What I have just described is something I get to enjoy every day I am out riding my bike around Dayton. During the course of my education I have had the opportunity to live in many places, but living here in Dayton is, without question, head and shoulders above any other place I have ever lived. Dayton is truly an idyllic community.

There was very little traffic on Sunday, which is pretty much the norm around here. Yes, there are commuters, the people who live here and work elsewhere, as well as those folks who need to get out and about in the course of their usual daily routine, but if I time it just right, I can enjoy long bike rides and not see more than several dozen cars. There are absolutely no heavy trucks to worry about and, therefore, no reason to fear for my safety, as I ride along these beautiful and peaceful country roads.

Both my son and I were in attendance at the Howard County Council Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2014. We were both truly impressed by those individuals who testified before the County Council regarding the deleterious and detrimental effects and ramifications of allowing a mulching facility to operate here in Dayton. Those individuals who came from Woodbine to testify as to the injurious health effects from the smaller mulching facility in Woodbine are truly heroes. I believe it takes a lot of courage to bare your soul in a room full of strangers and plead with the County Council to not allow an industrial-size mulching facility elsewhere in Howard County with the hope of precluding the damaging health and life-threatening issues they are dealing with from affecting anyone else.

That one woman who came from surgery, just that morning, to tell her story so the County Council would know, would understand and could see the threat is indeed so very, very real, provided a truly eye-opening, if not heart-breaking, first-hand testimony. As a doctor myself, I absolutely understand, all too clearly, the health issues those who came to testify are dealing and living with each and every day. There is absolutely no legitimate reason to compromise any individual's health, particularly because the situation in question is so unnecessary. There are certainly many other locations, far away from any residential area, that could easily accommodate this proposed mulching facility. To choose to build such a facility among many hundreds of homes is not only irresponsible, it is terrifying.

I do not know where Mr. Orndorff lives, but, perhaps, he should consider constructing his mulching facility close to his residence. In that fashion he can deal with the inevitable ill-effects of the carcinogenic wood dust and breathing the fine particulate matter, which will permeate the air. He can deal with the potential mulch fires and the risk to his home (Fire is a very real and serious threat to our homes, as we do not have hydrants and only have wells. As such, we rely on the fire department's tanker trucks, should they have to respond to a fire.), and again, breathing the toxic and carcinogenic fumes from these fires. He can enjoy the depreciation of his home's value due to its proximity to such a mulching facility. And, if he is on well water, as we all are, here in Dayton, he can enjoy drinking contaminated water, as this will surely happen if this mulching facility is built in our community.

As a parent and a resident of Dayton, who absolutely enjoys and loves living here, please do not allow this mulching facility - which needs to be not only in an industrial-zoned area, but also far away from any residential area - to contaminate our air, groundwater and farmland. Please do not allow the dozens of trucks, which will be utilizing this mulching facility on a daily basis, to come into our neighborhoods and destroy our roads and leave us with the burden and expense of repairing all of the damage they will most certainly cause.

Please help us to protect the quality of life we enjoy here in Howard County.

Please help us to protect the health of our families.

Please, please, please, do not allow facilities like this to be built here in Howard County.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, both of which are most sincerely appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Robert L. Jacobs
Dr. Claudette Jacobs

Subject: Letter of opposition to current zoning laws

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 1:54:54 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Adam Jacobs

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Council Member Sigaty,

My name is Adam Jacobs and I'm a twenty-two year old resident of Dayton. I'm writing to you to express my opposition to the current, and relatively new, zoning laws, which would allow for the realization of projects like the one currently proposed by JBRK LLC. To be sure, I take this position for a couple reasons.

It seems to me that many individuals who share my position have placed much emphasis on the safety threats that large trucks this project, and other possible ones like it, would bring to Dayton's narrow and winding roads, the sight and sound of industrial facilities in a beautiful, rural town, etc. While these concerns are absolutely valid and important, **what troubles me - and what should trouble any rational, responsible and empathetic individual - are the health risks posed by industrial facilities for which the current zoning laws allow: well and water contamination and carcinogenic air pollution.**

After the testimonies by several individuals - most notably Dr. Victor Velculescu's (associate professor of oncology at JHU and co-director of the Cancer Biology Program at JH's Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center), as well as those by the several residents of Woodbine currently living next to an industrial mulching and composting site a fraction of the size as the one proposed for Dayton - at the 19 May Howard County Council Meeting, the reality of these health risks are undoubtedly evident. **That is to say, if these zoning laws are kept, industrial facilities like the one proposed will - not might - adversely affect the health not only of the residents of Dayton, but, too, of neighboring cities and towns.**

The facts here are too clear to make the wrong decision. Dayton and its neighboring cities and towns are incredibly desirable places to live, but I'm more than certain that if these zoning laws are kept the way they are, this will increasingly cease to be the case.

At the Council Meeting it was amazing to hear those in favor of the current zoning laws and of the proposed mulching facility take a defensive position by asking how far we - those against the current zoning laws - are going to go in limiting the uses of rural land, etc. It's more than clear that it was they, not we, who changed, or who, at the very least, are in favor of, the new zoning laws. It is us - those against the current zoning laws - who are on the defensive; we are defending our health and our town from individuals who certainly care about neither. **Not we, but they - those for the current zoning laws - are on the offensive; it is they who want to change the laws for their benefit; we want to keep things the way they were. It is fundamentally misleading to ask how far we are going to go; the question that should be asked is how far they are going to go.**

Even one industrial facility like the one proposed - its inevitable well and water contamination and carcinogenic pollution - is too much. Would you voluntarily live next to such a facility? If not, then where's the legitimacy in forcing thousands of other people to?

I'm not at all against industry, etc. ... but to allow for the building of an industrial site like the one proposed - a facility that will assuredly pollute the ground, water and air - in the center of a residential area, thereby putting the health of thousands of individuals at risk, is not only unacceptable, but horrendous. I urge you to drive to the location of the proposed mulching facility in Dayton, and then drive through the town - there are thousands of homes all around ... and you will see that the proposed mulching facility would be incredibly, and irresponsibly, misplaced.

I urge you to change the zoning laws to disallow for the realization of this project and ones like it.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration and service.

Adam

Subject: Industrial Mulching

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 5:38:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Mike Riley

To: Fox, Greg, mmclaughlin@howardcountymd.gov, Levy, Joy, dcoyne@sha.state.md.us, Sigaty, Mary Kay, Terrasa, Jen, Ball, Calvin B, Courtney Watson

I oppose the potential Industrial Mulching on Agricultural property in Dayton, MD.

Our family lives fairly close to this location and want to see farming on farm land not industry such as mulching and its negative impacts.

Thank-you for your support.

Mike Riley

Subject: NO INDUSTRIAL MULCH ON AG PRESERVE LAND!

Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 7:18:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: kevin Doyle

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

I am a Howard County resident who lives in Dayton, Md. I would like to support the legislation from Greg Fox which is co-sponsored by Courtney Watson and MaryKay Sigaty, along with an amendment from Ken Ulman and from DRPS which opposes industrial mulching on agriculturally preserved land. I commend the support from many of our legislators and the hard work the Dayton Rural Preservation Society has contributed to this cause.

I have been a resident of Howard County for 19 years, 10 of which have been in Dayton. I cannot imagine a mulching operation that is 16 acres being operational only a short distance from my home. Howard county has always been noted for its strict zoning laws but seems to have let this slide by. Howard county has always taken pride in protecting the environment and creating and maintaining a healthier community for its residents. How is letting up to 50 large semi and commercial trucks per day on our rural roads maintaining this? It jeopardizes our children, runners, cyclists, and families. These trucks would primarily be on our roadways all throughout the morning and evening commute, interfering with busses and motorists. Also the dust could potentially affect the health of many, particularly people with asthma or COPD. Fire hazards are another large concern. The mulching piles have a history of combusting and catching fire. There is no city water here so where would they get water to extinguish a fire if it were to occur? The noise created by the trucks and mulch grinders do not seem to go with environmentally friendly as well.

This is supposed to be agriculturally preserved land not industrially zoned land. The mulching operation is industrial not agricultural and does not belong in this area with all the residents, children, cyclists, runners, etc.

NO INDUSTRIAL MULCH ON AG PRESERVE LAND!

Thank you,
Joan Doyle

Subject: Industrial mulching

Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 1:18:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Alison Howard

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear County Council Member Sigaty,

My name is Alison and I am a 16 year old resident of Dayton. I have lived in Dayton since I was in the first grade. Some of the great things about living in Dayton are...

We have great public schools – I have gone to Tridelphia Ridge and Dayton Oaks Elementary Schools, Folly Quarter Middle School, and Glenelg High School.

We have great yards – When I was little, we played all sorts of games in our yard – tag, hide and seek, soccer, tether ball. I don't play games in the yard very much anymore, but I do run around with our dogs. We have a vegetable garden and flower gardens and I help out with them. My brother and I raised chickens in our yard a few years ago. I can read or use my computer on the back porch and it is quiet and peaceful.

We have safe and beautiful neighborhoods – I love to run and ride my bike especially in the spring when everything starts to bloom and in the fall when the leaves are changing color. My dogs love to take walks with me in the neighborhood, too.

We have caring neighbors – Even though our houses are far apart, we care about each other's health and safety. We bring each other food and kindness when tragedy strikes. We help each other shovel snow, cut grass, rake leaves. We stop and talk when walking our dogs.

Dayton is a great place for a kid to grow up. I am worried now about what might happen in my neighborhood with industrial mulching. There are so many questions that seem to have negative answers.

I just got my learner's permit and I worry about driving on these twisty old roads with big trucks. What if they are over the middle line? What if they are going to fast? What if they lose control of their trucks?

I ride the bus to school and I am dropped off at the end of my road. Will it be safe for my classmates and me to be dropped off on roads with big trucks driving along them? Will they see us? What about the little kids? Will they see them standing at the bus stop?

We have a lot of joggers and bikers in the neighborhood and we don't have any sidewalks. Will it be safe to walk, run or bike with big trucks driving by?

I like to be outside. I had asthma when I was young but have outgrown it. I am worried that industrial mulching will make it come back. I don't want to feel the tightness in my chest again or have difficulty running because I cannot get enough air. What happens to all of us with breathing problems if there is mulching? Will I be able to help in the garden? Take my dogs for a walk? Go running? Sit on my back porch?

What happens to the environment? Will it be safe to drink the water? Breathe the air? What if there is a fire? What about our furry friends – deer, fox, rabbits, raccoons? How will this impact them?

If the mulching facility is allowed, I don't think Dayton will be such a great place to live. You can help keep Dayton a great place for kids and families by not allowing industrial mulching.

Thank you and please vote soon to keep Dayton safe for all of us.

Sincerely,

Alison Howard

--

From Alison

Subject: Fwd: industrial mulching

Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 11:59:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Donna Howard

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

May 26, 2014

Dear County Council Member Sigaty ,

I am writing you regarding the legislation to prevent industrial mulching on agricultural preservation land. As a resident of Dayton and a homeowner who backs up to the farm where mulching is proposed, I have grave concerns regarding this issue.

First and foremost, I am concerned for the health and well being of my children and elderly mother (who lives with us) as well as our pets and my own health. There seems to be pretty clear evidence that industrial mulching poses serious health risks. Air quality will be an issue for all in the area but those with allergy, asthma, and the elderly will be especially susceptible to lung and other health issues if industrial mulching is allowed. Additionally, I will have to worry about the safety of my children with increased traffic from trucks traveling to and from the facility. It cannot possibly be safe to have children standing (waiting for the school bus) or walking on the roadside with these large vehicles driving through the neighborhood. How will our small country roads handle industrial traffic?

We purchased our home nearly ten years ago in this area specifically for the public schools in Western Howard County and a calmer, gentler lifestyle in a country setting. Now, this bucolic setting is endangered by air and water pollution, threat of fire, loud noises, traffic, and health issues caused by industrial mulching. Fire is a huge concern – we live on wells, so there are no fire hydrants in the area. If there is a fire at the facility, where will the water come from and will it arrive in time to save the homes in the neighborhood? We are serviced by the West Friendship Fire Department and while they are wonderful, they must travel 7.5 miles down Route 32 to get to our neighborhood. Let me assure you that traveling Route 32 can be quite time consuming giving the volume of traffic at certain times of the day. Industry should not be allowed in a residential neighborhood and certainly subjecting residents to health and safety risks cannot be the intent of agricultural preservation.

I am further concerned that a decision on this issue may be postponed until after the election. This is not fair to any parties involved in this dispute whether for or against industrial mulching. We all deserve a solution to this issue sooner rather than later. Postponing until after the election is not the right thing to do because it gives the impression that votes are more important than the health and safety of the residents served by the council. Both sides have made their cases and it is time for this issue to be resolved.

Thank you for your service to the residents of Howard County and for your prompt attention to the matter of Industrial Mulching on Agricultural Preservation Farms.

Sincerely,

Donna Smeins Howard

13839 Dayton Meadows Ct, Dayton, MD 21036

Donna Howard
daeva77@verizon.net

Subject: Keep Dayton Rural

Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 11:23:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: ginimike@verizon.net

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

The Kwitkowski Family
4994 Centaurus Court
Dayton, MD 21036

May 25, 2014

Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council, District 4

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Sigaty:

The purpose of this letter is to implore you to amend the zoning regulations to keep industrial mulch, compost, and soil processing OUT of rural Howard County.

Please do NOT table this decision until next year. DO IT NOW!

My family has resided in rural Dayton, MD since 2007. I grew up in Columbia, from 1981, graduated from Hammond High School in 1987, and lived there until my graduation from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1991. I am an acute care nurse practitioner specializing in oncology.

We saved our money and bought a home in quiet, rural, Dayton, MD. Growing up in Columbia, I had never even heard of Dayton. They were apparently keeping it secret!

We love this area for many reasons:

- Location: Surrounded by farms (the beauty, access to fresh food), in a real neighborhood, all while having close access to commuter routes
- Value: Big lot size, larger home size than Montgomery County in comparable areas
- Quiet: We hear no traffic or noise from our location
- Safety: Our child can ride his bike throughout our neighborhood without worry of traffic or dangerous people
- Schools: Just the BEST

Since I first heard about the proposal by JBRK, LLC to use Agricultural Preservation Farmland to conduct industrial mulch manufacturing, soil processing, and composting, I have been strongly opposed to this, and helped with the grassroots organization by sharing information with neighbors (on Facebook and the NextDoor site that I created for my neighborhood), and attending the meetings (local planning meetings as well as the recent 5/19/14 County Council legislative hearing).

I was very impressed with the testimony that was provided at the meeting. The testimony provided you with information that supports the health and safety RISKS to us, the local taxpaying residents in the surrounding area. The risks include, but are not limited to:

- Groundwater contamination/heavy metals (we all live on well-water because we do not have COUNTY water

supplies)

- Mulch fires which are too risky given our inadequate water supply given no public water/hydrants
- Carcinogenic mulch dust/mulch spores/respiratory illnesses
- Heavy 18-wheeler truck traffic/equipment (our roads are not adequate to hold these!)
- Noxious odor from the compost (just remember the last time that you walked outside near recently laid mulch and think about smelling this every day!)
- High decibel noise from the grinding equipment

Would you want to have this in your neighborhood? Ask yourselves that!!

It was apparent to me that the existing local farmers have been misinformed/misled by the Orndorff group into thinking that we non-farm neighbors are interested in interfering with their farm activities and telling them what they can do with their land. Nothing could be farther from the truth! We support a farmer's right to tend to his own land, including to mulch what exists on the farmland in order to increase the cropland footprint. We see nothing in any of the proposed bills that would prevent a farmer from mulching his own property, or a homeowner from creating composting areas for personal use. We just want to live on our properties safely, quietly, and without breathing in toxic fumes/dusts. There is a huge difference between farming and an industrial composting/mulching/soil processing activity! Surely you can figure out how to implement rules that allow the farmers to do their work and prevent a company from ruining our lives!!

I also know that some of the farmers are being swayed in the direction of his support because he is giving them extra land to farm (while he operates the Industrial operation on the other acreage). We can't compete with that offer! It's worth a lot of money to have extra land to farm. Agricultural preservation was NOT intended for industrial use! Industrial mulching, composting, and soil processing is NOT farming!!

Please keep the Agricultural Preservation land for farming. Our tax payments pay for this program, and we support it, but not if you are going to let companies take over the land and use it for industrial purposes! Mr. Orndorff should take his Industrial activities to INDUSTRIAL ZONED PROPERTY!

At the May 19th Council meeting, I was moved (as I hope you were) by the many neighbors of the illegally operating Woodbine facility who were suffering from health effects due to the Woodbine facility operations. Please, shut that place down and keep history from repeating itself by preventing Mr. Orndorff from ruining our lovely town!

Having this Industrial activity in our neighborhood will dramatically reduce our property values and your tax base. The alternative is easy; change the zoning laws immediately to prevent this!!!

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the citizens of Howard County!

Sincerely,

The Kwitkowski Family
Michael, Virginia, and Adam Kwitkowski
4994 Centaurus Court
Dayton, MD 21036

Subject: No Industrial Mulching on Howard County Ag Preserve land
Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 10:36:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: pmjtsang@gmail.com
To: Fox, Greg, mmclaughlin@howardcountymd.gov, Levy, Joy, Sigaty, Mary Kay
CC: info@preservedayton.com

Dear HoCo Government.

I am a Dayton resident and oppose Mr. Orndorff's proposed mulch farm on Howard County Ag Preserve land.

I moved to Dayton after being sold on the rural nature of the town - clean air, very peaceful, safe place to raise our kids. I am quite distressed at the possibility of an industrial sized mulching operation (posing as a farming operation) taking root only hundreds of feet from our residences. I am concerned that this mulching facility will generate problems typical of industrial operations in our rural community - heavy trucks on narrow roads, fungi and airborne wood particulates, noise pollution, and groundwater contamination.

This operation will harm thousands of residences and will change our community for the worse while benefiting a few saavy businesses that are pursuing profits without any concern over the damage they are creating.

The community is outraged and I ask that you support the restriction of industrial mulching on Howard County Ag Preserve land.

Pete Tsang
15021 Oak Ridge Ct
Dayton, Md 15021

Subject: FW: CB 20/21

Date: Monday, May 26, 2014 at 10:07:02 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Debbie Burgio

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay, Ball, Calvin B, Terrasa, Jen, Courtney Watson

I wanted to share what I wrote to Councilman Fox.

Dear Councilman Fox,

As a constituent, a resident of Dayton who lives ¼ of a mile from the proposed industrial mulching site, a taxpayer whose moneys were spent on agricultural preservation to prevent such a monstrosity from coming to Dayton and western Howard County as a whole, I am greatly distressed to be hearing that voting on these bills may be delayed until after elections. With the co-sponsorship of 3 Council Members, I was so encouraged by the recent proceedings. Honestly, I think it would be an act of actual cowardice to put off a vote until after elections. Just when one begins to be encouraged again by the workings of a government, the concept of delay, especially after the volumes of information presented that unequivocally show detrimental environmental and health impacts, is unacceptable.

Now I realize that you are running unopposed in the primary election, as are most, if not all, of you fellow commissioners who wish to return, so the notion that your current supporters wouldn't vote for you, is of no concern. I am not familiar with Mr. Schneider's policy statements yet, but I shall become informed by November.

No one who supports CB 20 & 21 is suggesting that farmers not be allowed to bring materials onto their farms to support any real farming operations such as growing crops or raising animals, process naturally occurring farm waste, or send products off the farm for sale. What is opposed is the use of land for a process which brings on, processes, and sends out materials that have no connection whatsoever with farm production. Mr. Orndorff's facility would simply be using agricultural preservation land for a process that than be completed on concrete slabs. Farming, true farming, cannot be completed on concrete slabs. To ignore the community's environmental and health arguments and delay the vote or to vote against CB 20 & 21, would be to fall for a false argument that some of the farmers presented at the County Council meeting on May 19th. I had hoped that the council was wise enough to see through such false logic. There is no desire by anyone who supports one of these bills to set a precedent of opposing farming activity. We rely on these farmers for our food and support them whole-heartedly in these operations. Please don't let me or your other constituents down by allowing this hugely life-altering, unintended consequence of last year's zoning plan adjustments to stand.

A deeply concerned Howard County resident,

Deborah Burgio

Subject: Council Bill 21-2014

Date: Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 9:22:51 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Jane Hayes

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Councilmember Sigaty,

We are writing to you today to ask for your support for Council Bill 21-2014. We own a small farm in Clarksville less than a mile and a half from the proposed industrial mulch site in Dayton. Over the years we have worked hard to pay off our mortgage to allow us a measure of financial security when we retired. Now that we have retired we find that, as a result of the proposed industrial mulch facility that will surely lower the value of our farm, we are in danger of being denied that security as well as facing potential health issues from the toxins and pollutants this facility will produce.

We have attended the meetings with the Department of Planning and Zoning and the recent meeting of the County Council regarding this issue and we come away wondering; how much scientific information needs to be presented, how many doctors need to testify, how many sick and dieing Howard County residents need to tell their stories before you are convinced that locating an industrial mulch facility in a rural, residential area of the county is simply wrong?

We ask you not only to support CB-21, but to vote on and pass this bill on June 2, 2014. Do not table this issue. Do not wait until after the election. To do so will be to give tacit approval to this mulching facility. If the law is not changed now this facility will move forward and then it will be too late. It is quite clear based on the testimony of those affected by the Woodbine mulch site that DPZ cannot be relied upon to either monitor or enforce the county regulations and it is equally clear that they favor this facility as a conditional use. Fire, dust, noise, toxins, over-sized trucks on rural roads, danger to children and cyclists, disrupted classrooms, depreciated home values, and polluted wells and reservoir are what we face if this project moves forward.

Please protect the citizens of Howard County. Please vote now in support of CB-21

Sincerely,
John and Jane Hayes
5435 Harris Farm Lane

Clarksville, MD 21029

Subject: FW: Dayton Rural Preservation Society
Date: Monday, May 19, 2014 at 1:26:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: McLaughlin, Marsha S.
To: Fox, Greg, Sigaty, Mary Kay

Fyi.

From: Bos, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan_Bos@mcpsmd.org]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Terrasa, Jen; Courtney Watson; 'msmclaughlin@howardcountymd.gov'; Levy, Joy
Subject: Dayton Rural Preservation Society

Just a few salient points before the County Council meeting tonight:

1. Residents of Dayton and the surrounding areas have spoken pretty clearly. The signs are everywhere. I've passed out fliers and knocked on doors, and I don't know ONE SINGLE PERSON who is in favor of Mr. Orndorff's development plans. Dayton DOES NOT WANT industrial mulching on Agricultural Preserve land.
2. Every meeting I've attended on this issue (not counting Mr. Orndorff's original pre-submission hearing) has had over 300 people in attendance. That is a radical number of people involved, especially for such a small community as Dayton. People are committed to this issue. We demand that action be taken.
3. It is reasonable to ask what the County Council was thinking in the summer of 2013 when they made the change that opened the door to industrial mulching of the sort Mr. Orndorff proposes. Why did that ever happen in the first place? Did council members think it wasn't a big deal to have industrial mulching and composting on agricultural preserve? We appreciate the current support of council members who are working to rectify the situation, but if Mr. Orndorff does end up able to build a mulch factory in Dayton I think there will need to be a great deal of questioning as to how and why the council passed such a bad amendment to zoning and planning regulations in 2013.
4. There are so many reasons why industrial mulching should not be allowed in Dayton, and should not be allowed on Agricultural Preserve land. For starters, on a simple level, materials are being shipped in, processed, then shipped out. That is not agriculture, that is manufacturing. To allow that to happen would make a mockery of the concept of "Agricultural Preserve." Another compelling reason (and I'm leaving out all the health and safety factors, which are probably the BEST argument) is the drop in property values. If Mr. Orndorff builds a mulch processing plant in Dayton, I'm sure that will be lucrative for HIM. Meanwhile, hundreds of families will be affected, and they will be affected financially. Home values will plummet. Speaking for my family, we worked and saved and made a considerable investment to move to Dayton. It is simply not fair that someone will damage my home value so drastically, by getting through a loophole in zoning requirements.
5. I would remind everyone in elected office that this is an election year. For many of us in Dayton and the surrounding areas we are watching closely to see what our elected officials do to resolve this issue. Big money and big business interests should not prevail over the expressed will of hundreds and even thousands of residents.

Thank you for considering this matter closely. I trust that all of you will do the right thing and pass one of the proposed amendments.

Jonathan Bos
13829 Howard Road
Dayton, Maryland

Subject: Vote No on mulch manufacturing on ag pres land

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 9:59:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: svanwey@verizon.net

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Vote NO on mulch manufacturing on ag pres land in Howard County. We need to preseve our environment not destroy it with chemicals in well water, and ground water, endoxins in the air and mulch fires. This activity does not support health and wellness for our citizens and ecosystem. Ralph and Sue VanWey

Subject: Point of concern

Date: Monday, April 28, 2014 at 10:24:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Christina Sernulka

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Good Morning,
Please see attached.

Subject: Mulch Fires in Rural Areas

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 6:01:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: David M Banwarth

To: Ned Tillman

CC: Fox, Greg, Courtney Watson, Ball, Calvin B, Terrasa, Jen, Sigaty, Mary Kay

Chairman Tillman,

I am a Fire Protection Engineer and a licensed Professional Engineer in MD and 5 other States and reside in Howard County. I plan to be present at tomorrow night's board meeting at Cedar Lane concerning Mulch Manufacturing and NWWR facilities.

Please see that attached information regarding mulch fires in rural areas. It is intended for distribution to your Environmental Sustainability Board for preparation for the Board's deliberations.

Mulch fires occur naturally, and very frequently, as a byproduct of the heat generated by biological processes taking place in the piles. The mulch piles are self insulating and captive heat exceeds the auto-ignition temperature of the wood chips, thereby spontaneously combusting. The fires are deep-seated and not easily visually noted until they become expansive. They are unpredictable, since they rely on biological processes which in turn rely on moisture content, temperature, and other factors.

The attached "mulch fire chart II" document shows a few significant mulch fires that have recently occurred locally. Many/most mulch fires (which are not shown in the chart) are quickly extinguished as small smoldering fires before they become significant. Usually, those non-noteworthy fires are in facilities having adequate public water supplies, convenient fire equipment access, and close proximity to fire service response (i.e. - industrial parks). Please note in the chart that some larger fires which occurred in areas where public water supply was present, were extinguished in matters of hours (as opposed to days).

In contrast, those fires in rural areas lacking public water supply and good vehicular access burned for days and exhausted large quantities of firefighters and fire apparatus during those periods. Fires in rural areas are extremely more difficult to fight, are more dangerous, and demand many more resources - and thereby deprive the community at large of those same services.

The chart entitled "EST Stressors" demonstrates the environmental sustainability (ES) impacts of mulch fires on communities, families, individuals and natural habitats. It is apparent that the inappropriate placement of mulch manufacturing facilities (e.g. - outside of Industrial Parks) causes severe stressors that are contradictory to sound ES practices.

Finally, the chart entitled "Typical Mulch Fires in an Industrial Part vs a Rural Setting" demonstrates how inappropriate siting of industrial

mulch manufacturing plants affects the fire growth curve relative to fire department response times, times to establish a continuous and reliable water supply for fire-fighting, overall fire-fighting dangers and duration, and times to return to service. Again, improperly located facilities have huge community wide impacts on public safety which are largely avoidable.

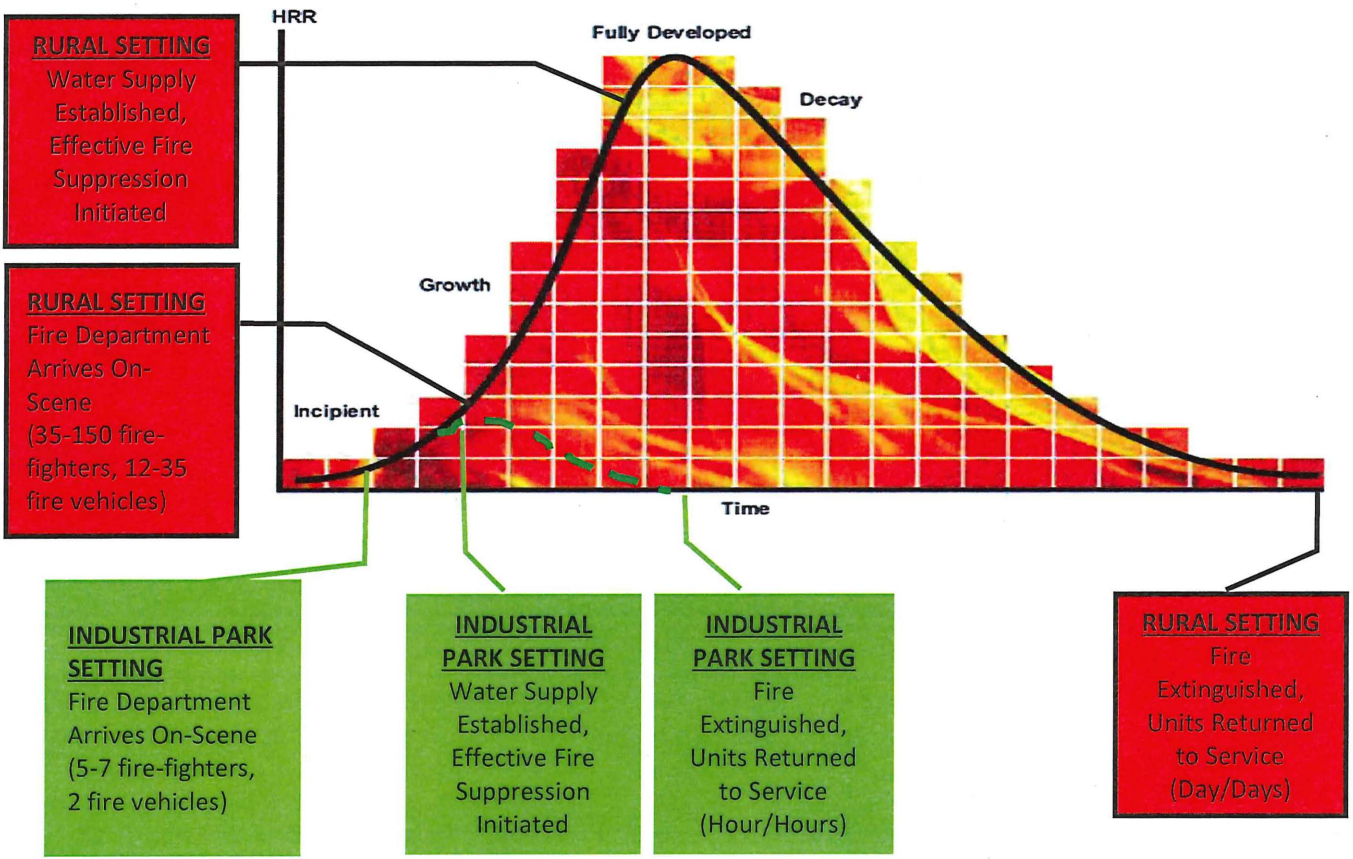
Thank you for taking the time to review these materials and I look forward to discussing them with you tomorrow evening if there are any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
David Banwarth, PE
4892 Green Bridge Road
Dayton, MD 21036
(H) 410-531-6458

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DMBA - David M Banwarth Associates, LLC
Fire Protection Engineers
www.DMBAfire.com

TYPICAL MULCH FIRE GROWTH CURVE IN AN INDUSTRIAL PARK SETTING (WITH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AND ACCESS) VS. RURAL SETTING WITHOUT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AND ACCESS)

Mulch fires in rural settings take longer to respond to, take much longer to establish a continuous and effective water supply, and tie up apparatus and fire-fighter for days, instead of hours in an Industrial Park setting. This is largely because the fire growth curve is hugely increased during the length of time required to manually set up a water supply and begin active fire suppression. And, because limited access for fire-fighting occurs in rural settings vs. Industrial Parks, which are located on major highways vs. remote farm fields.

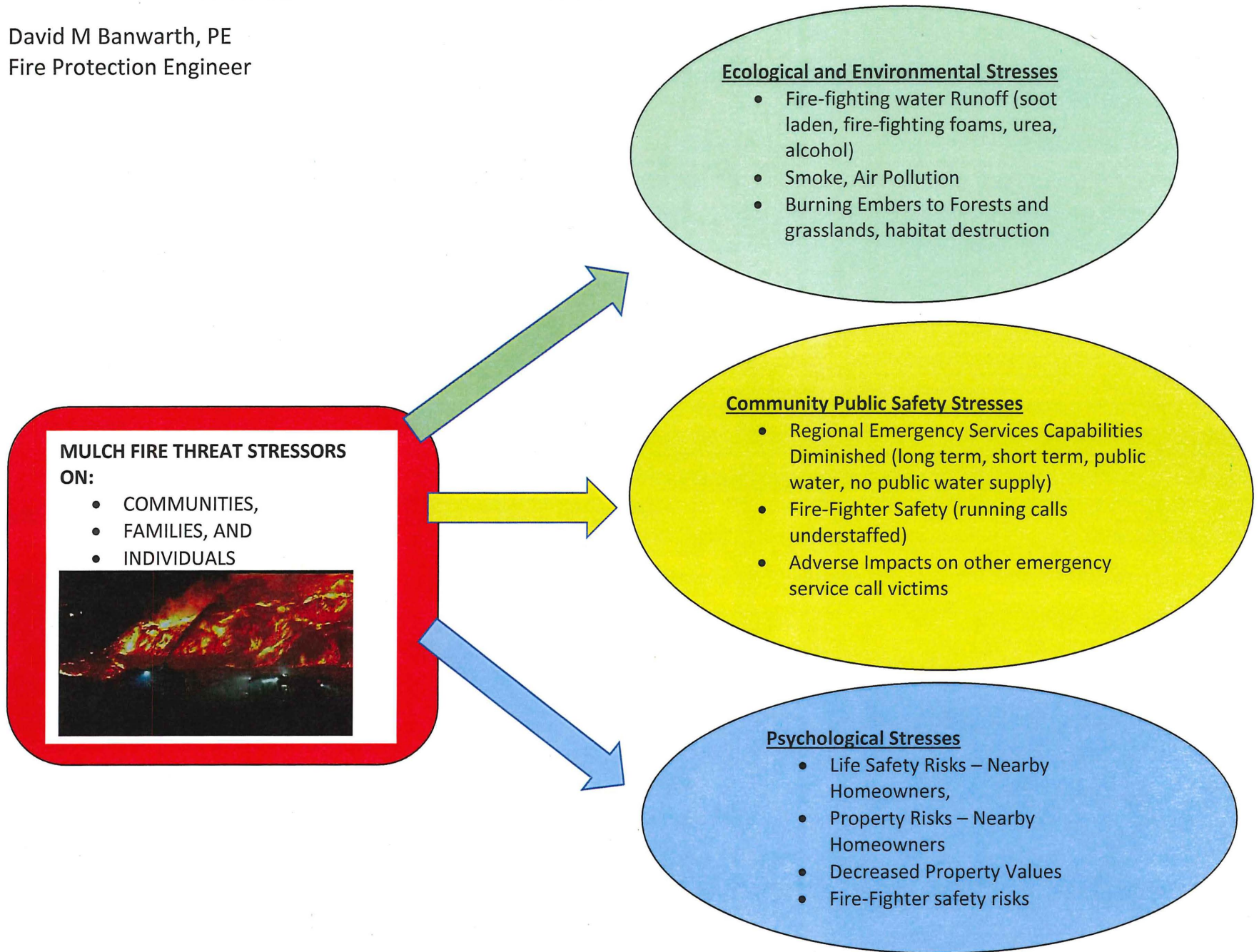


Legend:
 HRR = Heat Release Rate,
 Green Dashed Line (—) is Fire Growth Curve in Industrial Setting
 Black Solid Line (—) is Fire Growth Curve in Rural Setting).

David M Banwarth, PE – DMBA, LLC
 Fire Protection Engineers
 May 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS OF MULCH FIRES

David M Banwarth, PE
Fire Protection Engineer



	Location	Date	Fire Fighters	Equipment/Apparatus	Water Used	Water Supply	Damage	Size	Zoned
2	5402 Van Dusen Rd, Beltsville	2/19/2011, 11am-9pm 10 hour fire	150 F/F's		Est. Min. 8,000 gpm X 60 X 8 = 3.84M gals	Public	>\$1M, PGFD	300 A wind-swept crossed RT. I-95	Industrial
3	Upper Marlboro, Md	4/11/2013 3 Day Fire	55, with replacements (100+)	Brush Trucks, Foam Units from Andrews AFB, Many Engines Many Tankers, 3 Counties		No, 1 mile away		200 x 500 x 50'H	Rural
4	Recycled Green, Woodbine	September 1, 2013 1 Day Fire	35+, Estimate	Tanker 13, Tanker 3, Aerial Truck 8+ Engines, Other Also, Commercial Water Trucks	360,000 gallons estimated	No, drafted from creek			Rural
5	Nova Services Curtis Bay, Baltimore 711 Pittman Rd.	04/25/2013 5 hour fire	57 AA Co., Balt. Co., Balt. City, Ft. Meade			Public		1/4 Acre 60' high in places	Industrial

David M Banwarth, PE
Fire Protection Engineer

Subject: We do NOT support the Woodbine Industrial-Scale Composting/Mulching Operation

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 2:45:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Sarah Guarin

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Council Member Sigaty,

We have been Howard County residents since 2004 and small business owners since 2012. We are writing to let you know that we strongly oppose the proposed industrial-scale composting and mulch manufacturing operation in Woodbine.

One mulching operation has already been established in Woodbine (2600 Woodbine Road). With regards to this operation, in 2013, a resident of Woodbine wrote to the Baltimore Sun: "...this enterprise trucks in hundreds of tractor trailer loads of off-site wood debris from around the state causing truck traffic and noise. When they process the waste material with tremendous bulldozers, loaders, elevators and a tub grinding machine, they pollute our pristine residential-agricultural neighborhood with toxic dust, noxious odor and horrendous noise."

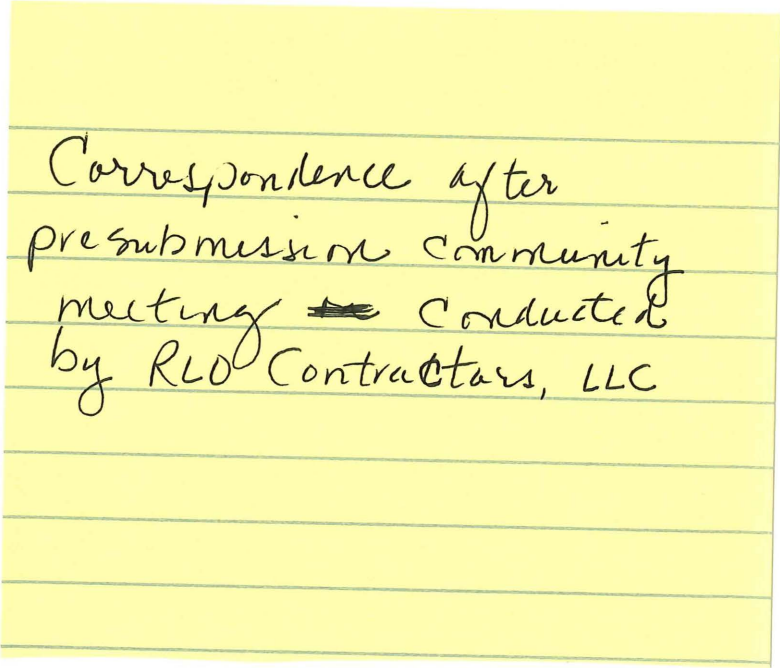
We moved to this area from Montgomery County for the clean air, peace and quiet and beautiful surroundings. These encroaching mulching and composting operations will destroy all of this not to mention the quality of life for residents. We live less than 1 mile from this proposed development. We do not want to breathe toxic dust and smell burning manure as we try to enjoy our three acres of property. Therefore, we have considered selling our home, Howard County-based small business and moving if these parcels of land continue to be sold for these extremely toxic and dangerous operations. We have talked to neighbors who are furious and also want to leave Howard County.

Having spent millions of Howard County taxpayer dollars on preserving these farms, we strongly encourage you and the County Council to take action to stop this.

Please help protect the beauty of Western Howard County.....

Thank you for your time,

Carlos and Sarah Guarin
3232 Starting Gate Court
Woodbine, MD 21797



Correspondence after
presubmission community
meeting ~~is~~ conducted
by RLO Contractors, LLC

Subject: Please support ZRAs to prevent industrial-scale mulching & composting on Agricultural Preservation land

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 10:11:36 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Christopher Beisel

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

CC: Dayton Rural Preservation Society, Fox, Greg, Ken S. Ulman, McLaughlin, Marsha

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

I am writing to ask you to support two proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments (ZRAs) recently submitted by District 5 Council Member Greg Fox and by the [Dayton Rural Preservation Society, LLC](#). These ZRAs will reverse specific 2013 changes to the Comprehensive Zoning Plan that permit industrial-scale mulching and composting operations on Agricultural Preservation land.

As you are no doubt aware, JBRK, LLC, is seeking to take advantage of 2013 zoning changes and re-locate the large commercial mulching operations of RLO Contractors, Inc., in Elkrige onto Agricultural Preservation land in Dayton and other locations in Howard County. These projects would run counter to the purpose of County Zoning Regulations: “. . . preserving and promoting the health, safety and welfare of the community.” Indeed, the project would negatively impact adjacent residential communities with respect to the **safety** of cyclists and pedestrians due to heavy tractor-trailer and dump truck traffic, the **health** of all residents due to airborne and waterborne pollutants, and the general **welfare** of homeowners adjacent to the project due to incessant noise and visual blight.

This project impacts my family directly in several ways. I am an active bicyclist, and I know first-hand that the narrow, winding roads in the Dayton area demand extraordinary care from drivers to prevent tragic encounters with cyclists and pedestrians. Addition of up to 50 daily round trips by large trucks on these roads is a recipe for disaster. I also have a daughter with asthma, and the airborne dust and chemical vapors from a large-scale facility can travel significant distances and trigger attacks. I also have concerns about the negative impact on our well water, both from the water table dropping due to heavy industrial water use, and from contamination by the chemicals used in the mulching process.

These and other concerns arising from 2013 zoning changes are not confined to one family or one community: similar industrial-scale projects are being proposed for other rural communities in Howard County—among them Sykesville, Woodbine and Highland—at an alarming rate. While there are certainly Conditional Uses of Preservation land that are appropriate, these industrial-scale mulching and composting projects are clearly unacceptable: they do not support the primary agricultural purpose of the Preservation land and they place the health, safety and welfare of residents from broad areas of the County at risk.

A proposed ZRA was submitted by the [Dayton Rural Preservation Society, LLC](#) on February 28, 2014 ([ZRA 148](#)). A second proposed ZRA was submitted by District 5 Council Member Greg Fox on March 5, 2014 ([ZRA 149](#)). Both of these proposed ZRAs restore former limitations on large-scale mulching and composting on Preservation land, and provide appropriate alternative locations for these operations in M-1 or M-2 districts. In keeping with the commitment under [PlanHoward 2030](#) to “refine the Rural Conservation (RC) and the Rural Residential (RR) zoning regulations to provide greater flexibility for the agricultural community as well as **appropriate protections for rural residents**” (Policy 4.5, p. 36), and for the preservation and promotion of the health, safety and welfare of all rural

residents of Howard County, I ask that you support these ZRAs.

Sincerely,

Christopher Beisel
5380 Green Bridge Road
Dayton, Maryland

Subject: proposed industrial site Dayton MD
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 10:55:21 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Priscilla Trubin
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

PRISCILLA TRUBIN 5162 GREEN BRIDGE RD DAYTON, MD 21036

March 6, 2014

Mary Kay Sigaty

Howard County Council (District 3)

3430 Courthouse Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Sigaty;

As a happy resident of Dayton MD, I am writing to you to reinforce our community's dismay at the proposed industrial mulching project on agricultural preservation land. JBRK, LLC proposes a commercial operation on 16 acres with a new road to be built using no-shoulder, winding, school bus-driven Green Bridge Road as the entrance and exit to this facility. I believe, by now, you know the facts of this proposal, but you may not know how this little community has pulled together in majority agreement that this is A VERY BAD IDEA.

The original purpose for these new conditional uses makes sense: our farming families need to be able to earn livings and sustain a way of life which is valuable for all of us, but the costs of the conditional uses have to be weighed in a prudent and fair way. Our family represents three Howard County voters and we are completely OPPOSED to this mulching, dying and composting business being placed in a rural, residential community on a small road with water runoff right into the Triadelphia Reservoir at the bottom of Green Bridge Road.

You now know that we are concerned for the safety of our children, walkers, bicyclists; we are worried about noise, water and air pollution as well as long term potential for carcinogens in the immediate environment.

Please take a few minutes to drive to Dayton and look around our community. Follow Green Bridge Road down the hill to the reservoir. Look at the farm and see the proximity to houses and people. Imagine five dump trucks or tractor trailers an hour coming and going. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Trubin oldtrube@aol.com 410-925-4357

Subject: mulch facility

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 9:06:40 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Sharon L. Lewandowski

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

I am writing to express my concern with the two proposed light industrial scale projects that are planning to be built on properties in Dayton and Sykesville areas both of which are zoned for rural conservation and agricultural preserve. Attached is my letter opposing this facility.

Thank you,

Sharon Lewandowski

Sharon Lewandowski
2940 New Rover Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

March 5, 2014

Howard County Council
ATT: *Mary Kay Sigaty* – District 4
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

I am writing to express my concern with the two proposed light industrial scale projects that are planning to be built on properties in Dayton and Sykesville areas both of which are zoned for rural conservation and agricultural preserve. I am a long time resident in Howard County and hope that you will read my letter that will highlight the issues that concern me regarding these proposed facilities.

These projects are the result of well-intentioned zoning laws and state regulations that are designed to help those in the farming community preserve the rural and agricultural nature of Western Howard County and the State of Maryland. Specifically, they allow for conditional uses such as wineries, ice cream stands, and mulching/composting facilities. I welcome these uses by our neighboring farming community but feel that in these two cases, the zoning regulations are being mis-used to allow for the construction of a light manufacturing facility in these rural areas.

Recently held community meetings by JBRK, LLC outlined plans to purchase two entire farms that are in agricultural preserve and utilize approximately 10% of these farms for a large, industrial grade mulch and soil composting facility. These facilities would result in over 50 large, 18-wheel trucks with gross weights of over 100,000 pounds to traverse our small local and scenic roads every day for 6 days a week at a rate of about one every 12 minutes passing through our community. I cannot imagine our local and state officials had this scale of an operation in mind when these zoning laws were passed. I travel these roads each and everyday to work and the traffic on these roads is already high in volume.

In addition to the trucks which raise safety and adequacy of roads issues (our community's children wait for school busses on these small roads and the biking and jogging community are active on these roads), our local community of over 250 homes near this proposed facility will be impacted by continuous noise (large truck brakes, backhoes, beeping reverse warning

signals, etc) all day long. I also understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been known to cause lung problems and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within 500 feet of our homes and this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. These large-scale facilities also contribute to issues with our local water tables and can result in leaching of pollutants into the nearby Triadelphia watershed.

While smaller scale conditional uses such as this can benefit our local farming community, we understand that in this case the land will be purchased by Robert Orndorff (JBRK, LLC) who is a local business man, the owner of the RLO Contractors, Inc., and is Chairman of the Board of Sandy Spring Bank. While the land will be purchased by an individual, our belief is Mr. Orndorff has no intention of living on the property or farming the property (that will be done by local farmers) but only in moving a current facility located at 7531 Cemetery Lane in Elkridge, MD. (zoned light industrial) to our rural community for the benefit of RLO Corporation – a local excavating company that collects wood and trees in its daily operation for mulching at these facilities.

I am concerned that current regulations allow for large scale business operations to move onto our local farms under the guise of an individual farmer and urge you to work with other elected officials in stopping the light industrial industries from moving into our rurally zoned farms using loopholes in the current law.

Sincerely,

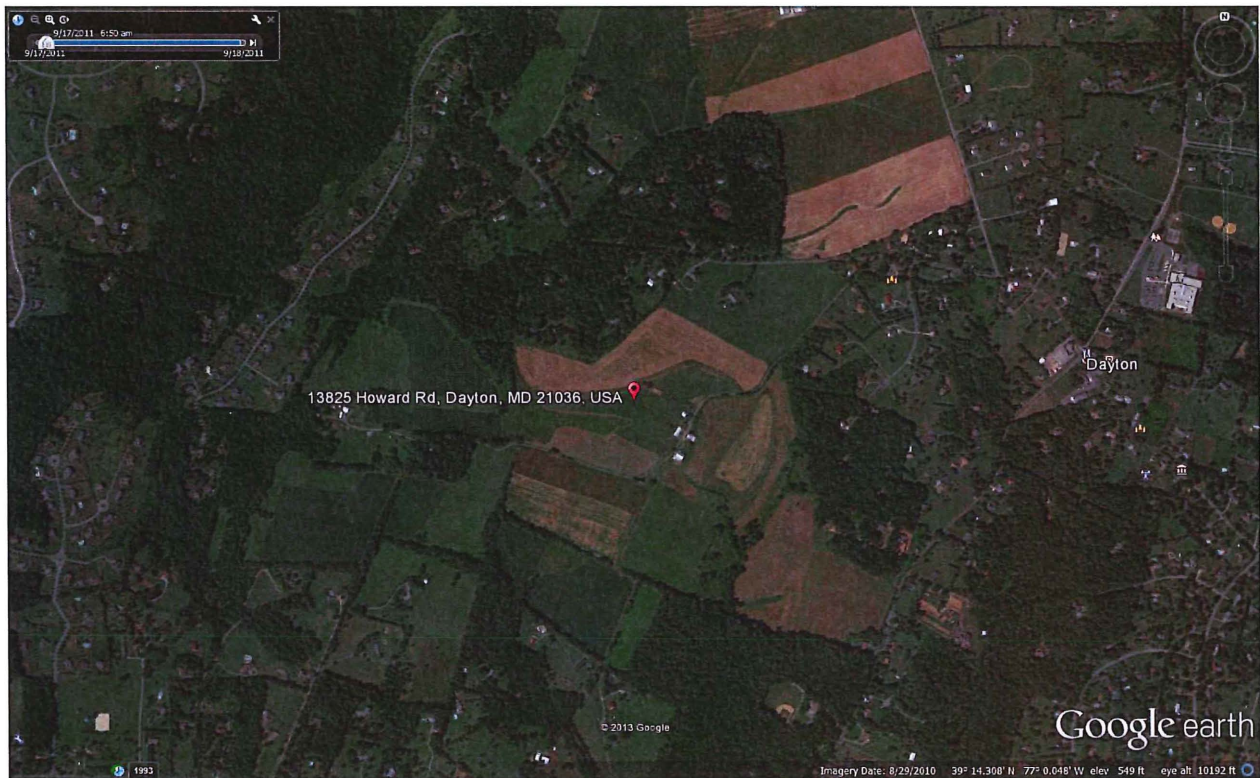
Sharon Lewandowski
Signature via email



RLO Corporation Operations and typical truck sizes



Current RLO Mulching Operation in Elkrige zoned light industrial



Proposed Location of new mulching facility in Dayton zoned rural conservation in Ag. Preserve

Subject: Mulching Facility in Dayton

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 5:09:33 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Craig Fyfe

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

I am a resident of Dayton, Maryland, in Howard County and am writing to express a deep concern regarding a proposal to allow a small industrial project to be built on farm property here in Dayton and another one in Sykesville. Both of these areas are zoned to be a rural conservation area and are in agricultural preservation.

Although I'm sure that these projects are the result of well intentioned zoning laws and state regulations that are designed to help those in the farming community preserve the rural and agricultural nature of Western Howard County and the State of Maryland. The scale of what is being considered here in Dayton and in Sykesville is frightening. The original intent was to allow for conditional uses such as wineries, ice cream stands, and mulching/composting facilities. I welcome these uses by our neighboring farming community but feel that in these two cases, the zoning regulations are being mis-used to allow for the construction of a light manufacturing facility in these rural areas.

Recently held community meetings by JBRK, LLC outlined plans to purchase two entire farms that are in agricultural preserve and utilize approximately 10% of these farms for a large, industrial grade mulch and soil composting facility. These facilities would result in over 50 large, 18-wheel trucks with gross weights of over 100,000 pounds to traverse our small local and scenic roads every day for 6 days a week at a rate of about one every 12 minutes passing through our community. These are country roads that are narrow and windy that go up and down with very poor visibility. I cannot imagine our local and state officials had this scale of an operation in mind when these zoning laws were passed.

In addition to the trucks which raise safety and adequacy of roads issues (our community's children wait for school busses on these small roads and the biking and jogging community are active on these roads), our local community of over 250 homes near this proposed facility will be impacted by continuous noise (large truck brakes, backhoes, beeping reverse warning signals, etc) all day long. I also understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been known to cause lung problems similar to mesothelioma and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within 500 feet of our homes and this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. These large scale facilities also contribute to issues with our local water tables and can result in leaching of pollutants into the nearby Triadelphia watershed. It's my understanding that fuel tanks to fuel the large trucks are planned as well as dye being used to change the color of the mulch. All of us here in the area are on well water and the prospect of having these materials seeping into our water supply is not acceptable.

While smaller scale conditional uses such as this can benefit our local farming community, we understand that in this case the land will be purchased by Robert Orndorff (JBRK, LLC) who is a local business man, the owner of the RLO Contractors, Inc., and is Chairman of the Board of Sandy Spring Bank. While the land will be purchased by an individual, our belief is Mr. Orndorff has no intention of living on the property or farming the property (that will be done by local farmers) but only in moving a current facility located at 7531 Cemetery Lane in Elkridge, MD. (zoned light industrial) to our rural community for the benefit of RLO Corporation - a local excavating company that collects wood and trees in its daily operation for mulching at these facilities. I don't see how building this facility will benefit anyone but Mr. Orndorff and not the farm owners or the community.

We are concerned that current regulations allow for large scale business operations to move onto our local farms under the guise of an individual farmer and urge you to work with other elected officials in stopping the light industrial industries from moving into our rurally zoned farms using loopholes in the current law. If this facility is allowed, where will it stop?

If this facility is permitted, I will remember you when you come up for re-election.

Sincerely,

Craig Fyfe
craig@fyfhome.com

Subject: Dayton Rural Preservation

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 2:56:17 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Bos, Jonathan

To: Ball, Calvin B, Courtney Watson

CC: Sigaty, Mary Kay, McLaughlin, Marsha

Mr. Ball, Ms. Watson, Ms. Sigaty, Ms. McLaughlin,

On February 20 I attended a meeting of the Dayton Rural Preservation Society at Dayton Oaks Elementary School. My wife and I had attended the pre-submission hearing, back in January, for Mr. Orndorff's proposed mulch processing plant. At the former meeting there were about thirty people in attendance. Most of them expressed concerns about and disapproval for Mr. Orndorff's proposed plant. I went to the meeting at Dayton Oaks Elementary not really sure what to think. Imagine my surprise when I walked in and found three hundred people in attendance, all of them united against the plan to build a mulch processing plant in Dayton! Nearly everyone there was a homeowner. Most of them were residents of Dayton. Certainly most of them intend to vote.

I would like to urge you all, in the strongest terms possible, to consider the feelings of the people of Dayton. We don't want the area polluted with noise, wood particles, and smell. We don't want the area congested with traffic. We don't want a beautiful rural and residential area turned into a loading station for dump trucks full of mulch. We don't want our property values to plummet. We don't want, quite frankly, you to be in office if you don't share these concerns.

At the pre-submission meeting in January Mr. Orndorff spoke about his plans. He said that he was looking at two different sites for mulch and composting plants. He said, regarding Dayton, that he wanted to be a good neighbor, and that he didn't want to move forward with his plan if the community didn't want it. I don't know Mr. Orndorff personally, so I can't say how accurately he represented his intentions. But I can tell you that the community doesn't want it. Not even a little. Please stand with us, work with us, in keeping Dayton rural. Mr. Orndorff may profit if the mulch processing plant is built (although he may not). But all of us profit by keeping Dayton clean and rural. We all profit by keeping land that is designated "Forever Farmland" as actual farmland, not a manufacturing and loading hub.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jonathan Bos
13829 Howard Road
Dayton, Maryland

Subject: Mulch Manufacturing, Soil Processing, and Composting Facility in Dayton, Maryland

Date: Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:03:20 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Lorie

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

March 3, 2014

Mrs. Mary Kay Sigaty,
County Council Member, District 4
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mrs. Sigaty,

I am writing you to vote in support of the zoning regulation amendment to prevent a mulch manufacturing, soil processing, and composting facility from being built on agricultural preserved farmland in Dayton, MD.

I have lived for almost 17 years on Green Bridge Road in Dayton, Maryland. While Green Bridge Road is designated as a "collector road", it is a rural residential road that passes through our neighborhood. It is a road where residents ride their bicycles, jog, and walk their dogs. It is a road where we walk to visit our neighbors who live up the street and for many years, I used a joggling stroller to take my daughter for a walk on Green Bridge Road and the surrounding roads. It is also a road where the neighborhood children stand on the edge while they wait for the bus and depending on the time of the year, many of the children have to wait for their buses in the dark. It is a road where the school buses stop at each house to pick up the students in front of their driveway because Green Bridge Road does not have sidewalks nor does it have street lights.

Green Bridge is also a road where our mailboxes are on the edge of our property and we must stand in the street to retrieve the mail. I am concerned about our elderly neighbors when they are retrieving their mail and could not quickly get out of the way if one of the large industrial hauling trucks comes barreling down the road. I am also concerned that the children in the neighborhood, including my own daughter, could be in danger when retrieving the family mail as well. Our community is on the route for the bicycle portion of triathlons and if this facility is allowed to operate on the neighboring farmland, bicyclists who train year round will be in grave danger.

Having 25-50 large industrial hauling trucks of 100,000 lbs. GVWR drive up and down Green Bridge and Ten Oaks Roads five days a week between the hours of 6:30 am to 5:00 pm and half of the day on Saturday will create an enormous safety issue for the residents and anyone who travels in our neighborhood. Green Bridge and Ten Oaks Roads are really just two lane county roads. They cannot handle the increased traffic that would result if this mulching facility is allowed to operate on this farmland.

Lastly, I am concerned about the pollution and the health hazards that this type of facility would generate. All of the houses in the community are on well water and we are concerned about the contamination of our drinking water. As a mother with a child who has asthma, I am worried about the long term effects of her breathing in tree bark and wood dust. The target organ for wood dust is the immune system. She would not be able to take advantage of being outside on our beautiful property.

Part of the reason we moved to western Howard County was to live in a community where our children could roll down the hill and play in the stream that flows through our property. We live in a community where our children pet the beef cattle next door and visit the horses that live around the corner.

I have always been proud to be a citizen of Howard County because of its commitment to preserving farm land. However, approving the proposed Mulch Manufacturing, Soil Processing and Composting Facility to be built on the agricultural preserved farmland between Howard and Green Bridge Roads is not preserving the farmland in Howard County. It is an open invitation to manufacturing facilities to build in our community and the rest of western Howard County.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope that the Howard County Government will vote to amend the zoning law to prevent an industrial manufacturing plant from being built in our community.

Respectfully yours,

Lorie E. Lana

5380 Green Bridge Road
Dayton, MD 20136

Subject: Opposition to Mulch Manufacturing, Soil Processing and Composting Facility
Date: Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 8:48:10 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: michael pantos
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Hello,

Thank You in advance for taking the time to read my attached letter opposing a proposed Commercial Mulch Manufacturing, Soil Processing and Composting Facility at 13825 Howard Road & Green Bridge Road in Dayton, MD.

I believe this proposal to be an EGREGIOUS misinterpretation of a recent change to Zoning Regulations allowing FARMERS to mulch and compost THEIR trees and farm waste. The proposed site in Western Howard County (Dayton) is an area that is Zoned Rural Conservation and in Agricultural Preserve.

Sincerely,
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Pantos
4540 Ten Oaks Road
Dayton, MD 20136

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Pantos
4540 Ten Oaks Road
Dayton, MD 21036

March 1, 2014

Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council (District 4)
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Council Member Sigaty,

As a resident of Dayton in Western Howard County for the past 10 years, I am writing to express deep concern over a proposed light industrial scale project that is the planning stages to be built on property in the Dayton, situated a mere one-half mile from my house, which is Zoned Rural Conservation and in Agricultural Preserve.

I understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been known to cause lung problems and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within 500 feet of our homes and this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. My Father-In-Law recently died from lung problems, and my Sister currently is suffering from problems with her lungs. If these facilities are approved, I'm afraid she will no longer be able to come visiting to our house, which is only one-half mile from the proposed Dayton site. These large-scale facilities also contribute to issues with our local water tables and can result in leaching of pollutants into the nearby Triadelphia watershed. Most households in the area rely on the local water tables as we are serviced by wells.

- Recent zoning changed allow for mulch and composting but we believe an industrial operation was not foreseen by those making these allowances as a conditional use of agricultural preservation land zoned RC.
- JBRK, LLC proposes an industrial operation of 16 acres of Dayton farmland to manufacture mulch, soil processing and a composting facility.
- They proposed to pave a new road through beautiful, scenic farmland to provide a road wide enough to reach the proposed facility that up to 50 large commercial dump trucks and tractor-trailers can enter and exit onto a tiny residential road, Green Bridge Road.
- The project affects local traffic for residents that are already overwhelmed with school busses and commuters to work and school each day. Cyclists and athletes ride and run on these residential roads around the farmland. Children get on and off busses and play

in their front yards.

- Large grinding machines and machines with a back-up beepers will make noise from early in the morning to 5PM each day including Saturday morning. The smell of an industrial mulch and compost facility will affect residents and school children for miles.
- There are serious environmental concerns to air and ground water being explored, as well as the carcinogenic properties of wood dust and fine particles that travel far distances through the air.
- Spontaneous mulch fires can occur and with homes only 100 feet from the new road to 600 feet from the mulch facility, this should cause great pause. See the ABC2 news story on Upper Marlboro mulch fire in 2013.
- Undoubtedly, home values will decline and affect household finances greatly!

Sincerely,

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Pantos

Subject: (none)

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 3:40:22 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Howie Feaga

To: Ken S. Ulman, Courtney Watson, Ball, Calvin B, Fox, Greg, Terrasa, Jen, Sigaty, Mary Kay

CC: Robert Orndorff, jdmullinixinc@aol.com

Dear Ken, and County Council members, I would like you to take a moment and read the attached letter that I think is very important. If you have any question's don't hesitate to call. Thank You, HOWIE

Howie Feaga
MERRY ACRES FARM
443-472-6264

Feb, 27, 2014

Dear County Executive Ken Ulman, and County Councilmen Ball, Sigaty, Terrasa, Watson and Fox,

I am compelled to write all of you, with some very important concerns that I have. There seems to be some people in the neighborhoods around Howard County that believe that Mulch is not an Agricultural Product. When in fact it is very much an Agricultural Product called Forestry. In the State of Maryland and all across America, Forestry is Agriculture. According to the University of Maryland's economic study, that was made in 2010. The key findings in that report (which I have included as an attachment in my email), the Maryland Forestry sector directly accounts for over \$877.5 million in direct output and over 2000 jobs. It's indirect and induced impacts add another \$446 million to the states economy. With those facts I don't understand how anyone can say that Forestry, along with all the by products that are produced from trees, are not Agriculture.

Howard Counties Council passed regulations that allowed a Conditional Use on small portions of Agricultural Preserved parcels to be used for Mulch Processing, not to be larger than 10% of the parcel size. This value added land use, would enable some farms to be viable, in a very unstable economy that we are in. But, once again because groups of Neighborhood Associations protest and block the rights of farmers. Rights that were given to us, to add that economical source of income, to their bottom line, in order to survive in these trying times. Many farmers gave up our rights to develop our land and at the same time many did not, and there for it has created a battle to survive on pieces of land that are not large enough to sustain a profit in agriculture, that is of the traditional commodities market, such as grain dairy or beef. These value added diversities are ways to sustain those individual parcels that have been made into agricultural islands, which struggle to survive on their ability to produce only traditional agricultural commodities.

I am appalled at the fact that there is one among you, and he knows who he is, that he would even consider the thought of undoing what is a very good thing for a small number of farms. His grandstanding with other so called leaders of their communities, is a disgrace to say the least. I certainly hope that when and if you are presented with a change in these Zoning

Regulations, that you are all going to support agriculture and not let Howard County down.

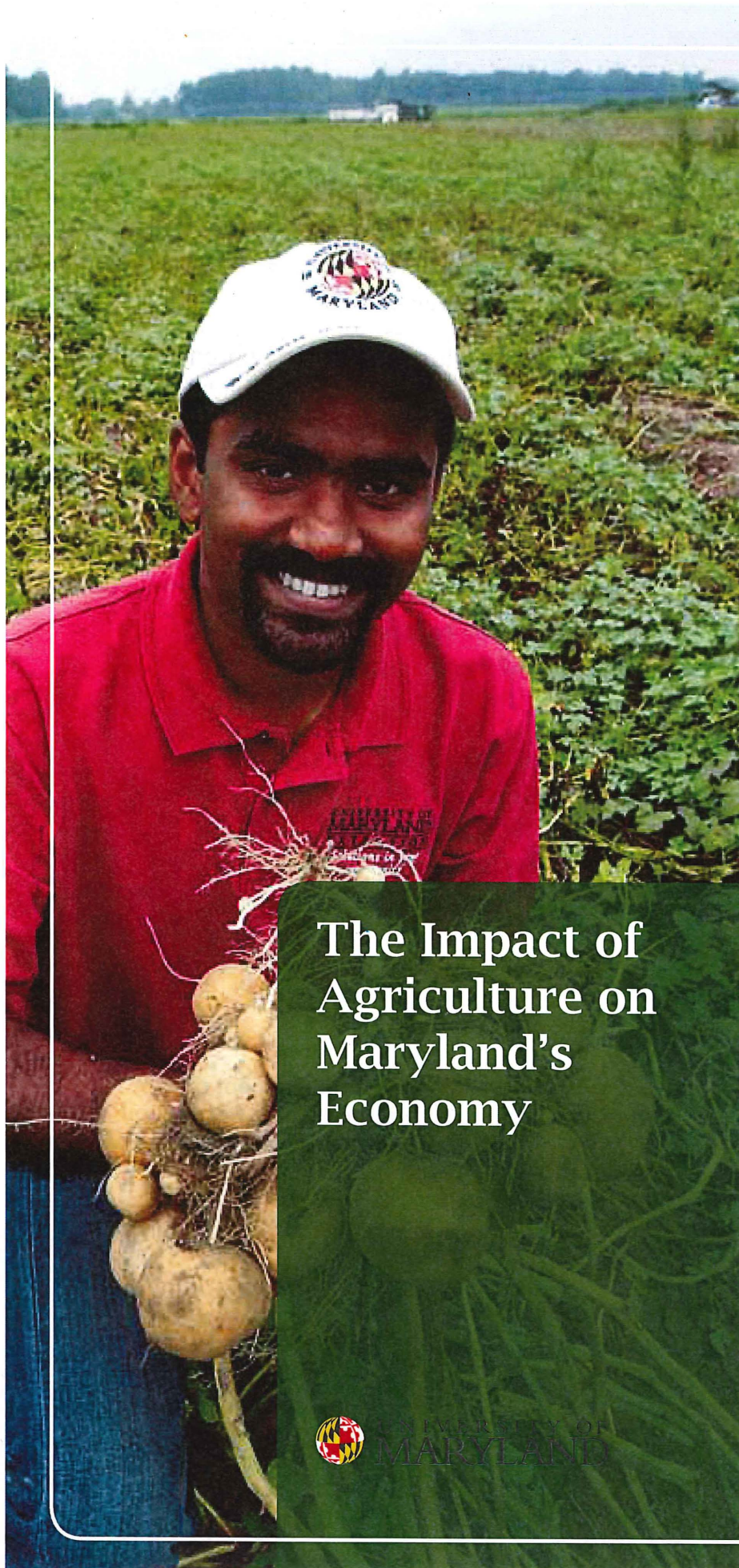
You all will also be voting on a resolution on Elizabeth Mullinix's Ag Preservation Parcel, "Council Resolution No. 28-2014" for the denial of the termination of that MALF Easement. Maybe you should reconsider that decision and let them out of a contract that is based on their ability to be profitable in this time of our economy in agriculture. With the "Neighborhood Associations" having such power of persuasion over rights that have been awarded to us, such as Cell Towers, Mulch Plants, and even Vineyards that have been protested. Maybe they should be let out of the program so as not to upset any more neighbors with their ridiculous agricultural fears and unjustified complaints about "their" landscapes. I am on the Ag Preservation State Advisory Board and we were to decide on that Mullinix property. The facts are, that the Board did recommend denial, but, the vote was 2 yes's for the motion to deny, 1 was an abstain, and I voted no. My reason being because with the now implemented "Tier System" it makes no difference, in this county, whether they are in preservation or not, they can not develop the land anyway.

I am hoping that you all realize the importance of not only preserving agricultural land, but also preserving Agriculture. It is an absolute necessity to keep Agriculture in this county, so that we can continue to have the quality of life, that is the long standing history of this county. President Kennedy once said "Our farmers deserve praise, not condemnation; and their efficiency should be cause for gratitude, not something for which they are penalized". If diversity is the modern day survival of agriculture in our county then I say let us survive. Thank you all, for your consideration on these issues, and for the work you all do.

Sincerely, *Howie*

Feaga

Howie Feaga



The Impact of Agriculture on Maryland's Economy



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

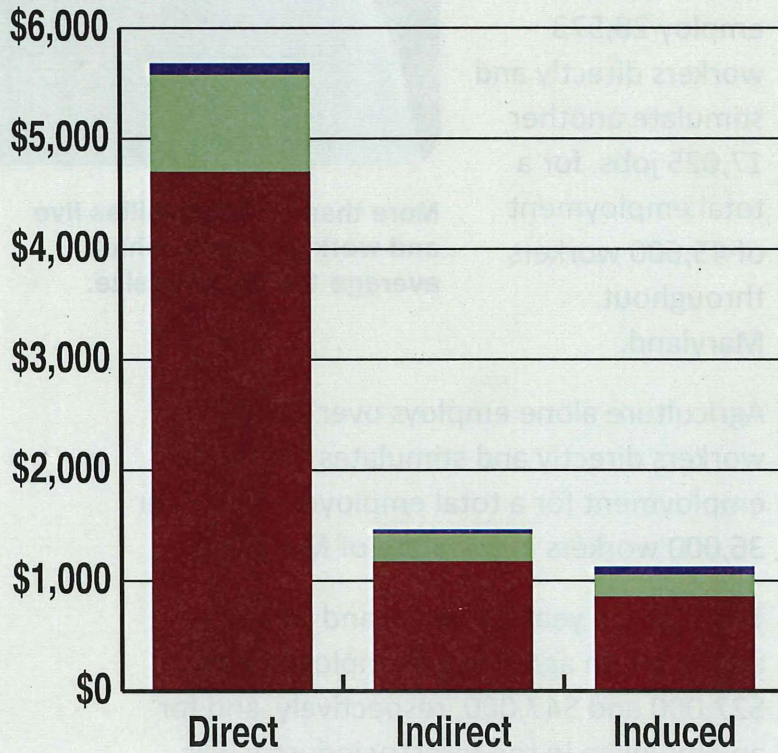
KEY FINDINGS

- The total impact of agriculture, forestry and agricultural services on Maryland's economy was almost \$8.25 billion in total output and nearly \$3 billion in value added.
- In 2010, the agricultural sector accounted for over \$4.7 billion in direct output and over 22,000 jobs. Indirect and induced impacts from the agricultural sector added another \$2.03 billion to the Maryland economy.
- Agriculture's \$4.7 billion in output revenue was split between crops (49.6 percent) and animals (50.4 percent), and between production (42 percent) and processing (58 percent).
- In 2010, the forestry sector accounted for over \$877.5 million in direct output and over 2,000 jobs. Indirect and induced impacts from the forestry sector added another \$446 million to the Maryland economy.

Crop revenues make up roughly 50 percent of Maryland's agricultural output revenue. Revenue from animal agriculture comprised the other half.



2010 Total Direct, Indirect, and Induced Impacts of Agriculture and Forestry on the Maryland Economy (millions of dollars)



	Direct	Indirect	Induced
■ Agriculture	\$4,700.60	\$1,175.40	\$857.00
■ Forestry	\$877.50	\$248.50	\$197.60
■ Ag-Related Services	\$104.90	\$14.90	\$72.70



Agriculture in Maryland directly accounts for over \$4.7 billion in output. Accounting for indirect and induced effects in other sectors, it adds another \$2.03 billion.

Employment

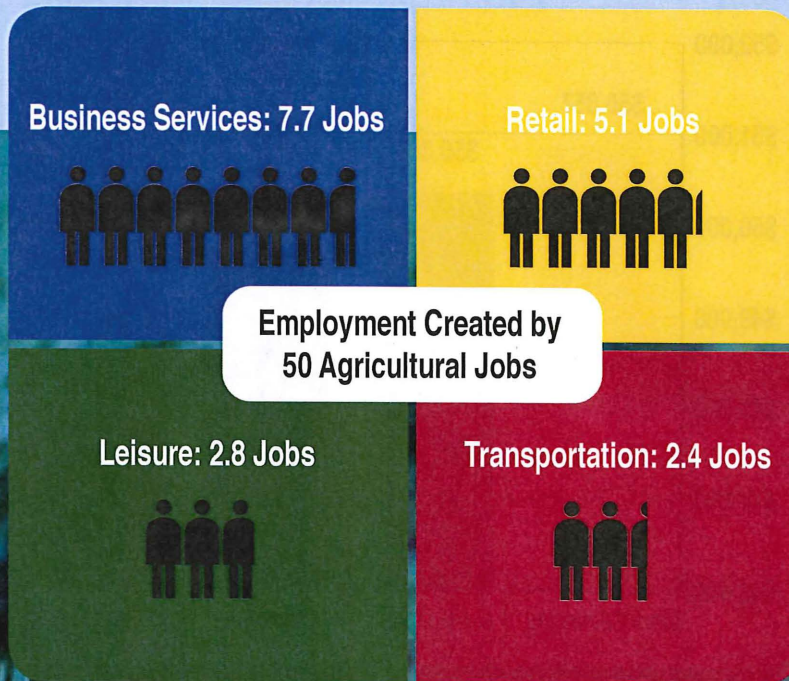
- Agriculture, forestry, and the agricultural support sectors employ 28,573 workers directly and stimulate another 17,025 jobs, for a total employment of 45,600 workers throughout Maryland.



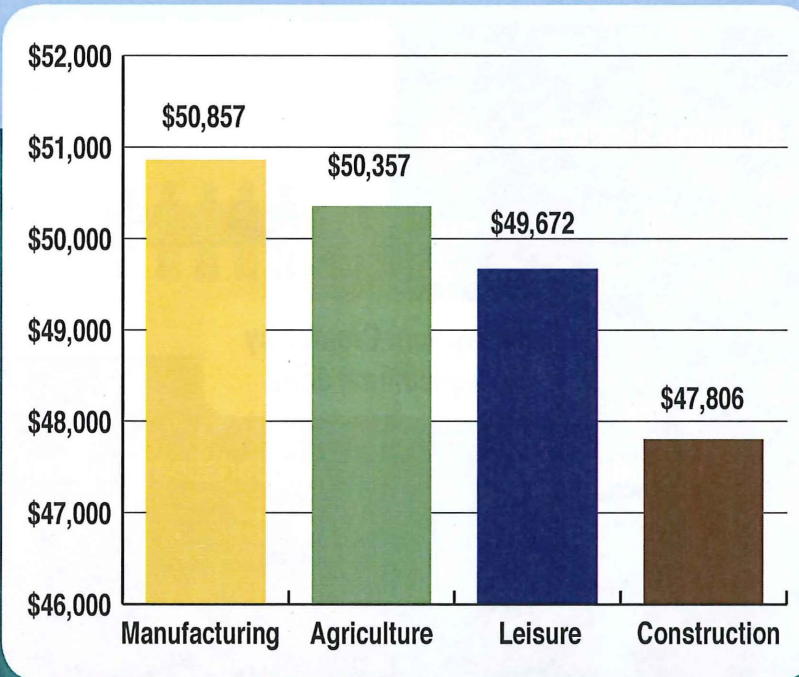
More than 12,000 families live and work on farms, which average 160 acres in size.

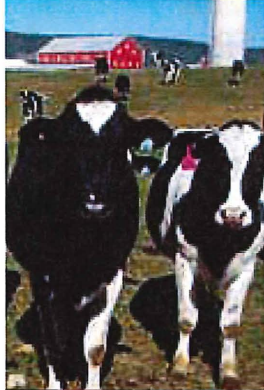
- Agriculture alone employs over 22,000 workers directly and stimulates additional employment for a total employment of over 36,000 workers in the state of Maryland.
- The average yearly income and value added for an agricultural employee was \$27,000 and \$47,000, respectively, and for an employee in the forestry industry was \$58,500 and \$108,000. In part this is due to some agricultural employment being part-time and/or seasonal, which decreases the average yearly income.
- The average indirect and induced yearly income and value added for the created employment was close to twice the agricultural industry average, at \$50,400 and \$92,000, respectively.
- The 2010 Average Yearly Income per Worker Resulting from Indirect and Induced Employment from the Manufacturing, Agriculture, Leisure, and Construction Sectors ranged from \$47,000 to \$51,000.

Employment Generated in Business Services, Retail, Leisure, and Transportation per 50 Agricultural Jobs



2010 Average Yearly Income per Worker Resulting from Indirect and Induced Employment from Four Sectors of the Maryland Economy

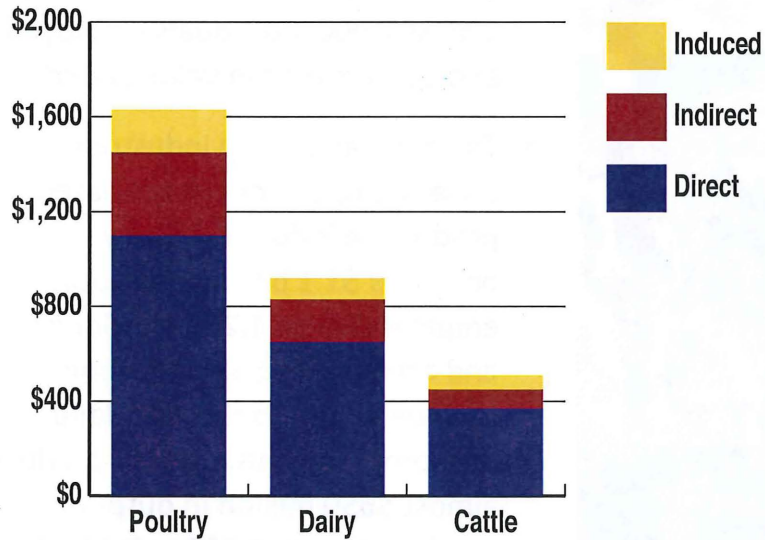




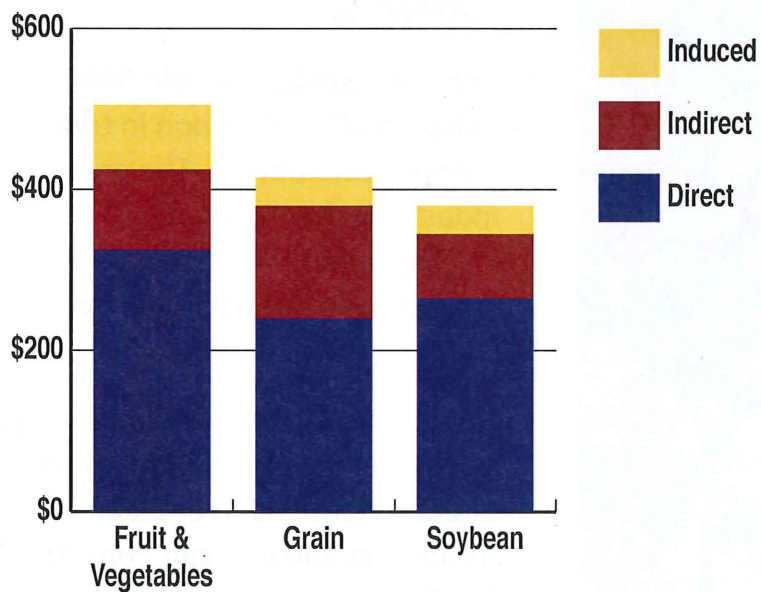
Selected Industries

- Poultry is the largest animal and agricultural industry in Maryland, with over \$1.7 billion in total output, almost 7,000 individuals employed, and \$500 million in value added.
- The dairy and cattle industries are also important animal-based production industries. Dairy produces \$1.1 billion in output, employs almost 4,255 individuals and contributes \$328.4 million in value added to the Maryland economy. The Cattle sector produces almost \$650 million in output, employs almost 4,255 individuals and contributes \$328.4 million in value added.
- Fruit and vegetable production is the most valuable crop industry in the state of Maryland, with \$539 million in total output and employing 2,200 people.
- Grain and soybeans yield \$444 million and \$415 million in total output, respectively. The grain industry is the biggest crop employer with over 5,800 jobs. The soybean industry employs 3,100 people.
- Maryland's forestry sector directly accounts for over \$877.5 million in direct output and over 2,000 jobs. Its indirect and induced impacts add \$446 million to the state's economy.

2010 Total Impacts of Poultry, Dairy, and Cattle Industries on the Maryland Economy (millions of dollars)



2010 Total Impacts of Fruit and Vegetable, Grain, and Soybean Industries on the Maryland Economy (millions of dollars)



We would like to thank Cheng-i Wei, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland, for his valuable support. We also appreciate the many conversations with and support of our colleagues and our Chair, Lars Olson, in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland. ■



Lori Lynch
Professor
Extension Economist



Jeffery Ferris
PhD Student
Agricultural & Resource
Economics



University of Maryland
Department of Agricultural
and Resource Economics

Symons Hall, Room 2119
College Park, MD 20742
<http://agresearch.umd.edu/CANRP/>
(301) 405-1293

Photos:
Edwin Remsberg

Design:
margaret@kerrydesign.com



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES



Subject: Dayton mulch and soil composting facility

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:18:24 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Christopher Beisel

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Council Member Sigaty,

I am a long-term resident of Howard County, residing in Dayton (District 5), and I am writing to ask for your help in avoiding the negative impact on the health and safety of county residents that will result if a proposed light-industrial-scale project proposed for Dayton is allowed to proceed.

As I am sure you know by now, recently-held community meetings by JBRK, LLC, outlined plans to purchase two entire farms that are in agricultural preserve, and to utilize approximately 10% of these farms for a large, industrial-grade mulch and soil composting facility. These facilities would bring over 50 large, 18-wheel trucks with gross weights of over 100,000 pounds, to our small local and scenic roads, six days a week.

A personal concern of mine is that the many roads in this area that are heavily used for recreational and competitive bicycling will no longer be safe. As I'm sure you're aware, this area of Howard County is a mecca for recreational cyclists from far and wide. Numerous competitive cycling events, such as the Columbia Triathlon, are also held on these roads. And of course, local families bicycle here in large numbers.

I bicycle in this area regularly, and can attest from personal experience that close encounters between cyclists and vehicles are already all too common on the narrow, winding roads. Wider vehicles such as trucks are a particular problem. Residents have been saddened far too often when our cycling neighbors have been injured or lost their lives.

The dramatic increase in heavy-weight truck traffic that this project would bring to the area poses a substantial risk to a large number of cyclists, and raises concerns about tragic increases in injuries and fatalities. I've witnessed, within sight of my front door, two medevac helicopter responses to cycling accidents; I don't want to see any more.

I am also personally concerned that my local community—over 250 homes near this proposed facility—will be impacted by continuous noise (truck air brakes, backhoes, beeping reverse warning signals, etc.) from dawn to dusk. I also understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been linked to lung problems and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within 500 feet of our homes, but this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. These large-scale facilities also pose a risk to the ground water that supplies our wells, and can produce toxic runoff that will threaten the nearby Triadelphia watershed.

I understand that this project is an unforeseen consequence of well-intentioned county zoning laws and state regulations that were designed to help those in the farming community preserve the rural and agricultural nature of Western Howard County and the State of Maryland, by allowing for certain conditional uses. Indeed, I welcome these uses by the neighboring farming community. But in this case, I believe the zoning regulations are being misused. I

cannot imagine that the Department of Planning and Zoning, the County Council, or state officials had an operation of this scale and far-reaching adverse impact in mind when these zoning laws were passed.

I strongly urge the Howard County Council to work with the Department of Planning and Zoning to swiftly correct the zoning laws and protect the health and safety of residents in Dayton and the surrounding affected areas.

Sincerely,

Christopher Beisel

5380 Green Bridge Rd.

Dayton, Maryland 20136

Subject: Robert Orndorff (JBRK, LLC)

Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 8:01:28 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Hazeltine, Fred

To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Dear Councilwoman Sigaty,

As a resident of Howard County, Maryland, I am writing to express concern over two proposed industrial scale projects that are in planning on properties in the Dayton and Sykesville areas – both of which are zoned rural conservation and in agricultural preserve. This land use issue currently under discussion in Howard County could serve as a blueprint for how to drive a Mack Truck-- actually up to 50 Mack trucks per day in this case-- through a loophole in the agricultural preservation zoning laws. *If it is approved, it will set a precedent that could destroy the intent of agricultural preservation, not only in Howard County, but in all of Maryland and perhaps even throughout the country.*

Recently held community meetings by JBRK, LLC outlined plans to purchase two entire farms that are in agricultural preserve and utilize approximately 10% of these farms for a large, industrial grade mulch and soil composting facility. These facilities would result in over 50 large, 18-wheel trucks with gross weights of over 100,000 pounds to traverse our small local and scenic roads every day for 6 days a week at a rate of about one every 12 minutes passing through our community. It is my hope that our local and state officials did not have this scale of an operation in mind when these zoning laws were passed.

These projects are ostensibly the result of well intentioned zoning laws and state regulations that are designed to help those in the farming community preserve the rural and agricultural nature of Western Howard County and the State of Maryland. Specifically, they allow for conditional uses such as wineries, ice cream stands, and mulching/composting facilities. I welcome these uses by our neighboring farming community but feel that in these two cases, the zoning regulations are being mis-used to allow for the construction of a light manufacturing facility in these rural areas.

I use the word "ostensibly" in the paragraph above because as much as allowing farmers sources of additional revenue on its face is a commendable idea, it is worth noting that *the change in zoning that may allow this to happen only occurred a few months before Mr. Orndorff gave notice of his intent to buy this 150 acres of preservation land. In my discussions with others in the area, it is difficult to find anyone who doesn't suspect that the zoning was in reality changed at least in part to allow this specific transaction to occur*

In addition to the trucks which raise safety and adequacy of roads issues (our community's children wait for school busses on these small roads and the biking and jogging community are active on these roads), our local community of over 250 homes near this proposed facility will be impacted by continuous noise (large truck brakes, backhoes, beeping reverse warning signals, etc) all day long. I also understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been known to cause lung problems and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within 500 feet of our homes and this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. These large scale facilities also contribute to issues with our local water tables and can result in leaching of pollutants into the nearby Triadelphia watershed.

While smaller scale conditional uses such as this can benefit our local farming community, we understand that in this case the land will be purchased by Robert Orndorff (JBRK, LLC) who is a local business man, the owner of the RLO Contractors, Inc., and is Chairman of the Board of Sandy Spring Bank. While the land will be purchased by an individual, our belief is Mr. Orndorff has no intention of living on the property or farming the property (that will be done by local farmers) but only in moving a current facility located at 7531 Cemetery Lane in Elkridge, MD. (zoned light industrial) to our rural community for the benefit of RLO Corporation – a local excavating company that collects wood and trees in its daily operation for mulching at these facilities.

We are concerned that current regulations allow for large scale business operations to move onto our local farms under the guise of an individual farmer and urge you to work with other elected officials in stopping the light industrial industries from moving into our rurally zoned farms using loopholes in the current law.

Sincerely,

Fred E. Hazeltine Jr.

Subject: Fwd: Proposed Mulching facility next to farms and reservoir
Date: Friday, February 7, 2014 at 4:17:36 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Tim Jock
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay

Tim, Pamela, Dylan and Cayden Jock

4979 Green Bridge Road

Dayton, MD

February 7, 2014

Dear Ms. Sigaty,

We have been residents of Howard County MD for 14 years. Pamela and I chose to move here to raise a family because of its idyllic blend of suburban amenities and natural setting. We moved our family from Columbia to Dayton in May 2013 because it had what we desperately wanted -- homes with lots of land, peace and quiet, and away from being in the 'middle of everything'. Our sons love the farm-rich landscape and hiking around the adjacent Triadelphia Reservoir. Now the farmland, the water we use to drink and bathe from the Reservoir, and safety of all the children like ours is at serious risk. We are writing to our extreme concern over the two proposed light industrial scale projects. These projects are to be built on properties in the Dayton and Sykesville areas -- both of which are zoned rural conservation and in agricultural preserve.

These projects are the result of well-intentioned zoning laws and state regulations that are designed to help those in the farming community preserve the rural and agricultural nature of Western Howard County and the State of Maryland. Specifically, they allow for conditional uses such as wineries, ice cream stands, and mulching/composting facilities. I welcome these uses by our neighboring farming community but feel that in these two cases, the zoning regulations are being mis-used to allow for the construction of a light manufacturing facility in these rural areas.

Recently held community meetings by JBRK, LLC outlined plans to purchase two entire farms that are in agricultural preserve and utilize approximately 10% of these farms for a large, industrial grade mulch and soil composting facility. These facilities would result in over 50 large, 18-wheel trucks with gross weights of over 100,000 pounds to traverse our small, local and scenic roads (without shoulders, bike paths or sidewalks) six days a week at a rate of about one every 12 minutes going to or leaving these proposed facilities. We cannot imagine our local and state officials had this scale of an operation in mind when these zoning laws were passed.

In addition to the trucks, which raise safety and adequacy of roads issues (our community's children wait for school busses on these small roads and the biking and jogging community are active on these roads), our local community of over 250 homes near this proposed facility will be impacted by continuous noise (large truck brakes, backhoes, beeping reverse warning signals, etc) all day long. I also understand that the fine dust that these mulching facilities produce has been known to cause lung problems and is a known carcinogen. Zoning law permits mulching within

500 feet of our homes and this dust carries in the air for up to 2000 feet. These large scale facilities also contribute to issues with our local water tables and can result in leaching of pollutants into the nearby Triadelphia watershed.

While smaller scale conditional uses such as this can benefit our local farming community, we understand that in this case the land will be purchased by Robert Orndorff (JBRK, LLC) who is a Howard County resident, owner of the RLO Contractors, Inc., and is Chairman of the Board of Sandy Spring Bank. While the land will be purchased by an individual, our belief is Mr. Orndorff has no intention of living on the property or farming the property (that will be done by local farmers). Mr. Orndorff only seeks to purchase this zoned rural conservation and agricultural preserve property to move his current facility located at 7531 Cemetery Lane in Elkridge, MD. (zoned light industrial) and directly benefit his RLO Corporation – a local (Dayton, MD) excavating company that collects wood and trees in its daily operation for mulching at these facilities.

We are concerned that current regulations allow for large scale business operations to move onto our local farms under the guise of an individual farmer and urge you to work with other elected officials to stop light industrial industries from moving into our rurally zoned farms using loopholes in the current law.

Sincerely,

Tim and Pamela Jock



RLO Corporation Operations and typical truck sizes



Current RLO Mulching Operation in Elkrige zoned light industrial



Proposed Location of new mulching facility in Dayton zoned rural conservation in Ag. Preserve

Tim Jock