

Ms. Sigaty and Council Members,

I'm writing to oppose approval of Bill 37-2015(ZRA-155). My understanding is that the impetus behind changing the zoning regulations is the fact that the Millers' masonry construction company was operating out of compliance with Howard County Zoning Regulations for some time and that they were caught. They hired a law firm and have since proposed changes to the regulations that would bring them into compliance assuming they received a Special Exception to operate in the R-20 zoning district.

My first question is why not ask them to come into compliance with current regulations instead of change the law because they won't follow it? This could mean that they move major equipment storage and operations elsewhere, there are plenty of commercial areas where construction companies would be welcomed and where they could grow without impacting residents, as most companies strive to do. To my knowledge there is no data, research, or study that indicates the need to change current laws.

The view from my deck often includes concrete mixers and occasionally other pieces of equipment needed to run what is euphemistically called a "home-contracting" business. I ask that you visit the Miller property yourself, examine the equipment needed to run the company, the structures that have been erected, and consider those neighbors who are impacted. Would you approve the change in law if this was your back yard? Again, it seems like changing the zoning law because someone was caught violating it is not the way to run the county. Let the regulations stand as written. There is no need to allow such uses in residential zones when more appropriate districts are already designated for such uses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I appreciate your consideration of the impact on the neighbors who actually see and hear the operations.

Respectfully,

Jason Daigle
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