



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

LWVMC Statement on ZTA 18-03
To the Montgomery County Planning Board
May 3, 2018

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County supports policies that ensure the viability of agriculture in Montgomery County, especially a policy that considers preservation of farmland to be a primary design consideration for development in the AR zone. This includes restricting the provision of water and sewer service beyond the established envelope. Increased commercial and industrial activity must be scaled to be compatible with this restriction.

The League supports restrictions on activities and events that result from or stimulate the need for commercial and industrial development in the agricultural reserve. Farm alcohol production is acceptable as an activity ancillary to farming, but it must remain an ancillary activity with more than token input from the farm. An ancillary activity must be sized to preserve the goals of the Functional Master Plan for the Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space and its public purposes including preservation of a regional food supply, energy conservation, protection of the environment and maintenance of open space. Limitations on placement, activity frequency and farm input should be applied. In order to preserve the integrity of the Reserve, it would be appropriate to allow activity beyond basic farm alcohol production and in-scale tasting rooms only as a conditional use in the Agricultural Reserve.