

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachment
05/01/2023 10:53:08	Alan Lang	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 13-23aaa: Licenses & Registrations – Special Event Permit (amended)	Oppose	I oppose the amended bill as I believe it can be used to suppress our Constitutional right to assemble via Section 11 11 104(C). "The County may deny, modify, or cancel a permit at any time ... to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public or participants of a special event." Excluding "The requirement for the license shall not infringe on the freedom of the right to assemble" from this bill speaks volume as to intent. Consequently, I am asking the Council to withdraw the bill or amend it to create a process where we notify the County of our intent to peacefully assemble instead of the proposed process requiring us to seek permission to assemble. I further believe that those who vote for this bill will be violating their oaths of office to support the Constitution. "I, _____, do swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and laws thereof; and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the Office of Councilmember of Anne Arundel County according to the Constitution and laws of this State." This bill still has numerous problems with terminology definitions and various contradictions resulting from the more than 20 adopted amendments. One would think that any bill needing that many amendments is flawed and should be withdrawn.	YES
05/01/2023 1:08:51	Jonathan Howe, Esq.	Annapolis	21401	Yes		Bill 13-23aaa: Licenses & Registrations – Special Event Permit (amended)	Oppose		YES
05/01/2023 9:44:18	Emily Mason	Millersville	21108	Yes		Bill 19-23aa: Ban the Bag Act of Anne Arundel County (amended)	Oppose	I am strongly opposed to this legislation on several counts, and urge the legislators to reject it. My concerns are as follows: 1. Paper bags are a poor alternative for transporting most items, and not everyone can afford reusable bags. 2. There are now available compostable plastic bags; these are known to complicate traditional recycling, but plastic bags aren't allowed in AA recycling anyway. It would be far more effective and less intrusive to allow plastic bags to be recycled. 3. I find the clause preventing stores from absorbing the per-bag charges officious, overreaching, and hypocritical. The county has no place telling businesses what their policies should be, unless it is a matter of public safety. Furthermore, for a county that is constantly spouting its concerns with poverty and food insecurity, it is shockingly hypocritical to charge the poor what amounts to a steep grocery tax. This is poorly thought-out virtue signaling, not a step forward.	
05/01/2023 9:05:11	Thomas Brewer			Yes		Bill 19-23aa: Ban the Bag Act of Anne Arundel County (amended)	Support	This ban is a matter of fiscal responsibility. I bring reusable bags to stores, but the cost of single-use plastic bags given out to other customers is included in the cost of the goods I purchase. I have been subsidizing a very wasteful practice and do not wish to do so anymore. Plastic bags disrupt recycling centers, increasing municipal costs, which come from taxes I pay. Taking plastic bags out of the waste stream by preventing millions from entering it each year in this county alone would substantially increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of sorting materials that are actually recyclable, thus decreasing the tax burden on Anne Arundel county residents. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. Respectfully, Thomas Brewer	
05/01/2023 8:58:08	sandra weinstein	arnold	21012	Yes		Bill 19-23aa: Ban the Bag Act of Anne Arundel County (amended)	Support	What are Plastic Bags made out of? Posted on 30 Jul in Healthcare Marketing, Healthcare Packaging, Reclosable Bags by admin 1Like Generally, plastic bags are crafted from an omnipresent polymer material called polyethylene. It starts as ethylene, widely drawn from natural gases, then treated to become the polymer, creating long chains of carbon and hydrogen atoms. However, these chains can differ based on what kind of polyethylene is being utilized, but they all help create multiple types of plastic bags. HDPE Plastic: It stands for high-density polyethylene, and is the most widely used type of polyethylene to create shopping bags. It is crafted directly from straight molecule chains that branch tiny, staying liener from start to end. This linear structure makes a robust material, which is why the standard grocery bag is lightweight yet can hold multiple items without tearing. LDPE Plastic: It is crafted from low density, branching chains of polymer substances. These polyethylene chains, instead of staying liner, outstretched in several different blending lines. Thus, it creates a very light, almost filmlike plastic that is utilized to make the tear-away bags dry cleaners employ for wrapping cleaned clothes. LLDPE Plastic: It is referred to linear low density polyethylene, such plastics don't branch, but also don't have the similar strength as HDPE types. It means that shopping bags made from LLDPE plastics need to be heavier and thicker than traditional grocery bags. Moreover, these shiny bags utilized in clothing stores are a typical example of bags made from this substance. In conclusion Even though plastic shopping bags are recyclable, they can't be recreated into an organic state. It means once made, they must remain as a synthetic material for the rest of its life! Causing forever pollution and health concerns!	
04/29/2023 23:34:45	Judy Jaudon	Severna Park	21146	Yes		Bill 19-23aa: Ban the Bag Act of Anne Arundel County (amended)	Support	We all know that there is a plastic pollution crisis. Plastic bags pollute our environs, gum up our county recycling machines and cause marine/wildlife as well as humans to absorb plastic toxins. I urge you to support this Bring your own Bag ordinance. We need to do this for the generations to follow. Thank you.	
04/19/2023 12:05:05	Grant Matthews	Annapolis	21409	Yes		Bill 19-23aa: Ban the Bag Act of Anne Arundel County (amended)	Support	Aldi functions fine without plastic bags. Our waterways, of which the county has a great many, will certainly do fine without these bags. Treatment plants, waste management facilities, street sweepers, the trees, our parks - all benefit. Full support from me.	
05/01/2023 8:57:01	Kevin C. Haines	Severna Park	21146	No	Maryland Building Industry Association	Bill 22-23: Zoning – Digital Zoning Layer	Support	See attached letter of support.	YES
05/01/2023 10:12:52	Christine Catterton	Harwood	20776	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	No Position	My concerns with this purchase is who will run the day to day operation? I do not feel that SMADC is capable of such endeavor, due to the RAC's history in Southern Maryland. Keeping this elevator open is beneficial to many farmers in Southern Maryland. But as I stated the day to day operation worries me. Anne Arundel County should not run a risk at the taxpayers expense on a venture that does not have a solid business plan Thank you for your time.	
05/01/2023 9:56:04	Catherine Cosgrove	St. Leonard	20685	No	Calvert County Farm Bureau	Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	• We support keeping the grain elevator open • We don't feel SMADC would be capable of running it properly due to their track record with other projects they currently have • We are concerned about having any government entity running the grain elevator. •We prefer a private entity to "rent to own" or run it.	
05/01/2023 9:48:23	Thomas Briscoe	Saint Leonard	20685	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	As a farmer in Calvert County, the grain elevator has been an essential part of my business as well as other local farmers in the tri-county area. The grain elevator is essential in the continuance of farming for many small scale farmers and the loss of this location could be detrimental to the farming community.	
05/01/2023 9:46:31	John Faber	Churchton	20733	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	Dear Anne Arundel County Council members, I ask that the Anne Arundel County Council supports resolution 9-23. The Lothian grain elevator is an integral part of agriculture in Anne Arundel County. This critical and viable piece of county infrastructure needs to remain available to farmers in Anne Arundel County and all of Southern Maryland. Without this investment in agriculture, it is certain that many farms and farmers will cease to exist. Just the concern that the grain elevator may no longer continue operation has already been felt in the ag community. We often speak of the equine industry, agritourism, vineyards and wineries as they relate to agriculture, but overlook the grain industry, which is the backbone of agriculture in our county. Everyone enjoys the view if corn, soybeans, and wheat fields growing alongside our roadways, and the open green spaces they provide. It is these agriculture practices that resolution 9-23 will most assuredly benefit, which in turn is a benefit to every citizen in Anne Arundel County. I look forward to the Anne Arundel County Council voting in favor of this legislation and working with our State representatives to not only keep the Lothian grain elevator in production, but I find other exciting and productive agriculture related uses of the facility. Sincerely, John Faber, Agriculture Supporter	
05/01/2023 8:57:15	Harrison Palmer	Aquasco	20608	No	Prince George's County Farm Bureau	Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support		YES
05/01/2023 8:18:59	Kayla Griffith	Lothian	20711	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	Dear Honorable County Council Members, Please see my attached testimony in support of resolution 9-23.	YES
04/30/2023 19:45:41	Jeffrey Griffith	Lothian	20711	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	I am a Lothian grain farmer in Anne Arundel County. The Lothian elevator is of great importance to me and the farmers of AA County. The closing of the mill would be a great hardship for me and a lot of the smaller grain farmers in the area. Without this elevator, transportation of the crops would be extremely time consuming and expensive to the point where it would make it impossible for me to harvest my crops in a timely fashion. Thank you.	
04/28/2023 10:04:56	Dylan Behler	Annapolis	21403	No	Senator Sarah Elfreth, Senator Jack Bailey, Senator Michael Jackson	Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	Please see attached letter from Senator Elfreth, Senator Jack Bailey, and Senator Michael Jackson in support of Res No. 9-23.	YES
04/27/2023 12:24:40	Samantha Cecil	Lothian	20711-9764	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	Please help the South County farmers. They have a hard enough time as it is. Please vote for this bill. Thank you.	
04/27/2023 12:23:21	Christine deBarbadillo	Lothian	20711-9764	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	South County farmers need this to stay competitive. We need our farmers to prevent development down here.	
04/27/2023 12:07:22	Patrick Mullarkey	Annapolis	21403	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support		

Timestamp	Full Name	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachment
04/27/2023 11:58:04	John Michael Cecil	Lothian	20711	Yes		Res. 9-23: Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project – Purchase of a Grain Elevator	Support	This asset is extremely important to the local farmers which farm my land. If closed, they will need to drive two hours across the Bay Bridge. We know how expensive that is not only in fuel, but in time. It will make South County Farmers at a cost disadvantage. We urge this bill to pass to keep the farmers in business and keep South County preserved from development.	
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Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning  
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

May 1, 2023

Dear County Council President and County Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to Bill 13-23  
An Ordinance concerning:  
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

I oppose the amended bill as I believe it can be used to suppress our Constitutional right to assemble via Section 11-11-104(C), “The County may deny, modify, or cancel a permit at any time ... to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public or participants of a special event.”

Excluding “The requirement for the license shall not infringe on the freedom of the right to assemble” from this bill speaks volume as to intent.

Consequently, I am asking the Council to withdraw the bill or amend it to create a process where we notify the County of our intent to peacefully assemble instead of the proposed process requiring us to seek permission to assemble.

I further believe that those who vote for this bill will be violating their oaths of office to support the Constitution.

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and laws thereof; and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the Office of Councilmember of Anne Arundel County according to the Constitution and laws of this State."

Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning  
Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

This bill still has numerous problems with terminology definitions and various contradictions resulting from the more than 20 adopted amendments. One would think that any bill needing that many amendments is flawed and should be withdrawn.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.

Alan Lang  
242 Armstrong Lane  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
410-336-9745  
[Alanlang1@verizon.net](mailto:Alanlang1@verizon.net)

## Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

I believe Bill 13-23 is the embodiment of the old adage that the road to hell is paved with good intentions and created a series of unintentional consequences as evidenced by the 20-plus adopted amendments. Also, Bill 13-23 seems to be a broad solution in search of a problem of similar magnitude.

I have attended all three hearings to date, but missed the meeting when the bill was first presented. From the information presented by the Administration representatives (Admin Reps), Bill 13-23 is needed because some vaguely described incident occurred at an unnamed event required emergency intervention by the police and fire department staff and the current special event policy covering only parades did not provide sufficient, advanced information to providers of County security and safety services.

What I did not hear from the Admin Reps was how many similar, if any, incidents had affected other events and how Bill 13-23 would have prevented these problems if it had been in place at that time. From what I could glean from the discussion was that more people than the sponsor anticipated had attended the event and the existing security/safety resources could not handle the crowd.

The Admin Reps stated that in the future they need to be aware of all planned special events so that the appropriate County departments can ensure adequate resources if they believed the event planners were not providing sufficient security and safety resources. Instead of creating a process whereby event planners could provide notice of upcoming events so that the County could plan to provide sufficient security and safety resources if needed/requested, Bill 13-23 created a process for seeking permission to hold these events.

Moreover, Bill 13-23 created a process to have sponsors of the events reimburse the County for providing these resources. Prior to Bill 13-23, providing security and safety resources was an expected expense from the budgets of these departments. I did not hear any testimony from the Admin Reps showing how providing security and safety resources for special

## Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

events was overtaxing the budgets. I also did not hear the Council asking why the Administration suddenly needed the public to start paying for these services. Since I believe providing these security and safety services were already budgeted, what did the Administration plan to do with the reimbursements they would be receiving from the special events permit process?

Besides needing some method for receiving advanced notification of upcoming special events, the only other justification for Bill 1323 that I heard from the Admin Reps was that all the surrounding jurisdictions except Anne Arundel County had a special events permit process. Thus, they needed to implement one as well.

I did not hear any testimony from the Admin Reps estimating how many special event permits they expected to receive once the bill was implemented. The only financial data I saw from the Fiscal Impact report and the County Auditor report was that there had been 64 parades, which would have generated permit processing fees plus reimbursable costs for providing police and fire resources. With the exception of the Department of Inspections and Permits (DIP), none of the departments surveyed stated the bill would cause any significant workloads. DIP stated it would need to hire an additional inspector to handle its expected workload increase.

Because no compelling financial data was presented to justify the need to implement a permit process that would now pass the cost of County services to the event sponsor, it makes one wonder what the original purpose of Bill 13-23 really is. When one notices that the writers of Bill 13-23 did not include “The requirement for the license shall not infringe on the freedom of the right to assemble” from the existing regulations, one is inclined to believe this bill is more about control than obtaining advanced information for coordinating County security and safety services.

We currently live in a deeply partisan, divided society. Neither side seems to want to work together to achieve change for the public good. Elections have consequences seems to be the motto of the party in power. Either

## Opposition to Bill 13-23, An Ordinance concerning Licenses and Registrations – Special Events – Permitting

work with us or get out of the way is used to suppress any objections or suggested changes from the minority party.

Bill 13-23, as currently written, concerns me because it gives the current and future Administrations unchecked power to grant permits to those sponsors/causes that they favor and to deny or delay permits to those sponsors/causes they dislike. It also allows the current and future Administrations to grant permits, but waive fees to those sponsors/causes that they favor yet charge fees to those sponsors/causes they dislike.

For example, let's assume that some future administration decides that a hypothetical statue honoring George Washington should be removed because he was a slave owner. A group wants to hold a protest march in and around State circle to protest and submits a special event permit requesting a police presence for safety and traffic control as it expects more than 500 people to attend.

Paraphrasing Section 11-11-104(C), the County may deny, modify, or cancel a permit at any time to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public or participants of a special event. If the administration does not want a protest march or wants to avoid a confrontation with a group that would oppose such a march, it can easily decide to deny the permit because of a lack of police resources or just claim having such a march would endanger the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

Finally, I am concerned about the quotes from Mr. Baron and Vice Chair Pickard in the Arundel Section of the April 30 edition of the Baltimore Sun. Both expressed concerns about the need for security. In testimony, one of the Admin reps stated that it was possible the Blue Angel flyover during Commissioning week could result in over 40,000 people gathering and the bill would be powerless to control the impact on County roads, yet 25,000 people at the County fair, with no evidence presented that the fair has had serious incidents in the past is one of the reason this bill is needed. It reminds me of Ben Franklin's famous quote, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety"

My name is Jonny Howe, Esq. I am a resident of the 6<sup>th</sup> district, I am a former Constitutional Law tutor, I have worked on First Amendment cases, and I have serious First Amendment concerns about the way this bill is currently drafted, and I worry that this is setting the county up for a needless and expensive legal battle over its constitutionality.

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects Americans' right to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Assembly. That means the government's ability to limit speech and assembly is very limited. While the government still has the power to require permits for large gatherings, the Supreme Court has struck down bills similar to the current bill as violations of the First Amendment. There are two problems that this bill presents, which would not necessarily be an issue for different permit requirements in other jurisdictions: (1) this bill gives carte blanche discretion to whichever officials the county puts in charge of the permitting process, and (2) this bill allows a "hackler's veto" by charging those who wish to hold a special event extra money as a result of actions of those who oppose the event.

The First Amendment does not allow permit requirements that allow unfettered discretion to a local authority to deny permits on a whim. In *Staub v. City of Baxley*, 355 U.S. 313, (1958), and again in *Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham, Ala.*, 394 U.S. 147, 89 S. Ct. 935, 22 L. Ed. 2d 162 (1969), the United States Supreme Court struck down local ordinances with language almost identical to the current proposal, i.e., the ordinances allowed officials to deny a permit for the "general welfare" or "public welfare." The Supreme Court struck these ordinances down because they gave very broad discretion to the permit-issuing authority, and thus would permit viewpoint based discrimination in issuing the permits. The broad language of the current proposal would allow whoever the county executive is to ban a demonstration of people promoting anti-vaccine messages, promoting a group the SPLC has designated as a "hate group," or any other point of



view that the county official deems to be against the public interest. Because the First Amendment permits anyone of any point of view to demonstrate in favor of their viewpoint, but this proposal would allow the government to shut down demonstrations solely because the county official believes the opinions advocated by the demonstrators is against the public interest, this bill would run in direct violation of the Constitutional right to Freedom of Speech.

Furthermore, an ordinance may not impose costs on a group exercising their First Amendment Rights based on a “Heckler’s Veto,” i.e., the government cannot charge the demonstrators extra because those who disagree with the demonstrator’s message might take actions that use government resources. In *Forsyth Cnty., Ga. v. Nationalist Movement*, 505 U.S. 123 (1992), the Supreme Court struck down an ordinance that charged demonstrators for the cost of county resources that would be used, including extra costs that would be required do to those who are opposed to the demonstrators. The First Amendment does not allow government to silence certain points of view by charging them extra because of actions of those who disagree. Because this bill would allow the city to charge more for a permit based on the threatened or expected actions of those opposed to the demonstrators. it is open to further First Amendment challenges.

If the County were to pass this ordinance, it would be opening itself up to lawsuits. These lawsuits would be expensive to defend, may require the county to pay large sums of money to groups the Council doesn’t want to fund, and will likely be struck down in the end.

The Council should not enact this bill without major changes to address possible legal challenges.



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 28, 2023

Chairman Peter Smith  
Anne Arundel County Council  
44 Calvert St, 1st Floor  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Vice-Chair Allison Pickard  
Anne Arundel County Council  
44 Calvert St, 1st Floor  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Letter of Support Resolution No. 9-23**

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Pickard, and members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

Thank you for your continued service to Marylanders and the residents of Anne Arundel County. We write to express our strong support for Resolution No. 9-23 to approve the acquisition of the Lothian Grain Elevator - a resolution that is the culmination of a year's worth of collaboration and a multilateral, bipartisan approach to supporting our agricultural community.

The Lothian Grain Elevator is a critical piece of infrastructure that sustains the agriculture community and small family farms not only in Anne Arundel County but across Prince George's, Calvert, St. Mary's, and Charles Counties. An estimated 113 farms depend on the elevator to store and sell their crops.

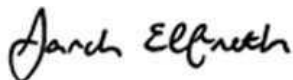
When the future of the Elevator was put in doubt through announcements made by the previous owner, a core group of elected officials and leaders in the agriculture community began meeting monthly to develop a plan to quickly purchase the site and find a creative business model to sustain the property and the farmers that rely on it. We were united in finding a State and local solution but, unfortunately, any State funding we would be able to secure would not be available until July 1st, 2023 - and thus not adequate to rapidly purchase the property and provide reliability for Southern Maryland farmers.

However, after further conversations and through the leadership of County Executive Pittman, we came to the agreement that Anne Arundel County and the Advance Land Acquisition Fund have the ability to do what the State cannot – quickly deploy money to preserve this critical asset. **While the State is unable to purchase the site as quickly as the County can, we were able to secure \$1,500,000 in the FY24 Operating Budget to reimburse the County for County dollars to purchase the site. That funding will be available on July 1st, 2023.**

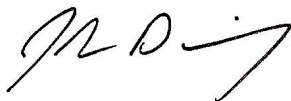
Finally, while there are still further conversations needed to finalize the operations of the elevator, the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission (SMADC) is a willing partner in that endeavor and will remain important as these plans continue. **In that vein, we were proud to have secured an additional \$100,000 in State Operating support for SMADC to support this project.**

We strongly support Resolution No. 9-23 to utilize County dollars to purchase the Lothian Grain Elevator with the understanding that the funding secured in the finalized Maryland Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget will be used to reimburse the County for this purchase. With the purchase and reactivation of this site, the Council has the opportunity to protect the future of agriculture in Anne Arundel County and across Southern Maryland. We respectfully request a favorable report of the resolution. As always please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Senator Sarah Elfreth  
District 30



Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29



Senator Michael Jackson  
District 27



## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC.

13501 Molly Berry Road Brandywine, MD 20613

PGCFB.org – 301.579.6552 – [PGCFB@yahoo.com](mailto:PGCFB@yahoo.com)

May 1st, 2023

To: Anne Arundel County Council

From: Prince George's County Farm Bureau

Re: Remarks on Resolution #9-23 - Approving the Terms and Conditions of the Acquisition of Real Property in Lothian, Maryland, from Perdue AgriBusiness LLC, Utilizing FUNds from the Advance Land Acquisition Capital Project

First, we would like to express our gratitude that the Lothian Grain Elevator will be preserved through the hard work of many involved parties, including the Maryland General Assembly, Anne Arundel County Government and Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Many of our farmers in Prince George's County make use of the Lothian elevator, so its success and longevity is important to the agricultural industry on our side of the Patuxent and throughout Southern Maryland. As this project moves forward, we must be mindful that this operation remains business centric and operated by an experienced organization with extensive experience within this niche field. The investments needed to bring the infrastructure up to date are not insignificant, but they are critical for long term operation. That being said, our farmers deserve a fair price for the product that they harvest, and the financial investments into the infrastructure should not come solely out of the farmer's pocket at risk of losing business to higher paying markets for grain. We believe that a value added operation could bring additional revenue to the operation to supplement the operational costs and the costs to upgrade the facility. However, let us not forget that the focal point of the operation is to buy and sell grain from Southern Maryland Farmers, and that a value added business investment of that magnitude should not be pursued without the confidence proven in a feasibility study.

As a grassroots organization, we work closely with our members to represent a unified voice on legislative issues and developments that have an impact on our agricultural industry. We look forward to working with our counterparts in Anne Arundel County and the region to ensure that our farmers will have a place to sell their grain and preserve their farming operations. If we may be of assistance throughout this process, please don't hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

Harrison Palmer  
Vice President

Prince George's County Farm Bureau

May 1, 2023

Dear Honorable County Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of Resolution No. 9-23 for the purchase of the Lothian Grain Elevator. I farm in Lothian along with my parents, Jeff and Chris Griffith. Our primary farm income comes from the sale of corn and soybeans, which we sell exclusively to the Lothian Grain Elevator.

A grain elevator is a location where many metal storage bins exist for the purpose of receiving and storing grain from farmers until it is ultimately sold and sent via truck to its purchaser. In the case of the Lothian facility, forced and heated air is used to keep the grain dry to prevent mold growth until it is shipped.

Sometimes larger farmers build bins on their own farms for temporary storage, but many smaller farmers like us cannot afford these bins. Right now one bin would cost us \$67,000 not including all of the related infrastructure required for the bin. We would likely need 2-3 of those bins and simply as a small farm we cannot afford to build these bins.

I am the fifth-generation on this land and I plan to continue farming full-time here for the rest of my life. I want to make sure I leave a sustainable operation for my daughter and without the Lothian Grain Elevator I am concerned our farm would suffer. That is why I am asking you to please vote in support of Resolution No. 9-23.

Sincerely,

Kayla Griffith

May 1, 2023

County Council for Anne Arundel County  
44 Calvert Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of Bill No. 22-23- Digital Zoning Layer

Dear Council Members,

The Anne Arundel County chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (“MBIA”) has conducted a thorough review of Bill No. 22-23, Digital Zoning Layer, (the “bill”). MBIA Supports this legislation in its current form.

This bill will modernize the County’s digital zoning layer, thereby improving the quality of the zoning maps of the County and the ease of use for its residents, businesses, and property owners. The inherent errors in the County’s digital zoning layer that have arisen through the transition from the use of mylar zoning maps through the early 21st century to a digital zoning layer in 2010 have become more apparent in recent years. These errors have increased as geographic information systems (GIS) technology accuracy has improved and becomes more readily available. As daily practitioners of the County’s Geocortex GIS application, members of MBIA have extensive experience with the map’s errors. These errors are small, relative to the size of a property, but the zoning line inaccuracies can cause hardship for property owners in title or financing issues, and cause delays for applicants of a development, grading permit, or building permit application and cost the County time and resources in reviewing these applications. Many times, the mistakes require a rezoning request for correction, which causes further delays and unnecessary proceedings.

The passage of the bill will bring Anne Arundel County in line with regional best practices, allow OPZ staff to identify misalignments and routinely correct simple misalignments, and improve the quality of the digital zoning layer. The bill also maintains the integrity of the County’s zoning layer by leaving authority for complex misalignments with the County Council through Comprehensive Zoning or the Administrative Hearing Officer through rezoning application requests.

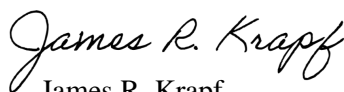
For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Council approve Bill No. 22-23- Digital Zoning Layer.

As always, we appreciate the hard work that Council puts into the legislative process. Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions about our comments or would like to discuss our position further, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us or Lori Graf, Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Building Industry Association.

Best regards,



Kevin C. Haines  
Anne Arundel County Chair  
Maryland Building Industry Association  
khaines@hollyoakconsulting.com



James R. Krapf  
Anne Arundel County Vice-Chair  
Maryland Building Industry Association  
jkrapf@elmstreetdev.com

cc: Ms. Jenny B. Jarkowski, Planning and Zoning Officer