Item 9 - Correspondence

From: Richard Thoms
To: MCP-Chair

Cc: Caroline Taylor; Findlay Steven

Subject: Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - Continuation of Public Hearing from 9/5/"24 January 9,

2025

Date:Friday, January 3, 2025 5:26:34 PMAttachments:Solar Response and testimony letter - PSC.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Mandatory Referral #MR2024016 Proposal to construct a 4 MW Solar Collection system

Please submit this for testimony in the January 9, 2025 Hearing

I have enclosed testimony that was submitted to the PSC regarding this development proposal, for information addressing the technical difficulties with this proposal.

In this hearing, I would like to express my opposition to the proposal for the following additional reasons:

- 1. This proposal is clearly a "zoning busting" effort that will completely usurp the ability of Montgomery County to control land development within its own area, and specifically within the Agricultural Reserve.
- 2. The county and multiple stakeholders developed zoning text that represents a compromise to address responsibly all their objectives. This compromise protects the limited prime soils in the Reserve, yet allows farmers to construct solar arrays on subprime soils.
- 3. The property owners the Bouchers are not without alternatives. The conditions for zoning compliant solar development on their property can be readily met with a solar array of different design configuration.
- 4. The thought that this development will be compatible with co-existing agricultural activity is simply a pipe dream. As far as I am aware, there has been NO demonstrated successful co-location of this type solar array with agricultural activity in the Mid-Atlantic region. Instead of developing "beneficial pollinators" under these panels, infestations of invasive plants such as Bull Thistle, Johnson grass, MultiFlora Rose bush, Wineberry, and Mile-a-minute seem much more likely. To successfully achieve "agri-voltaic" operation, the panels need to be much higher off the ground to enable equipment operation, the structure much more substantial to accommodate grazing, and a much more sophisticated rain water management system is required. In this proposal, the entity that will be responsible for operating the "farming" aspect of this operation has not been identified and their subcontract stipulating the methods for operation and maintenance of the agricultural operation has not been written and submitted.

This is not an emergency – there are abundant alternative methods of achieving the renewable energy goals of the county that comply with the zoning requirements. It is not necessary to

destroy productive farmland to get there, and it is certainly not necessary to overrule Montgomery county land use plans, including those of the nationally recognized Agricultural Reserve.

It is my understanding that the majority of the solar installations in Montgomery County are already located in the Agricultural reserve. Perhaps it is time we started to emphasize solar locations that are closer to the areas of the greatest electrical consumption as well as the locations that are appropriate for solar within the Ag Reserve.

Tiewyan Farms

Bev & Dick Thoms 21700 Big Woods Rd., Dickerson, Md. 20842 e-mail rwthoms2@icloud.com PHONE # 301-758-2575

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Jamie Bergen Maryland Public Service Commission 6 St. Paul Street – 16th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf I LLC Project

PSC Case #9726

Bev & I have owned the property adjacent the Boucher farm – the proposed site of this utility scale solar installation - since 1973.

We do not oppose solar.

We have had 85 solar panels installed on our farm building rooftops since 2016, and plan to expand that system to generate up to 200% of our power requirements as soon as we have the cash available. On our 57 acre farm we have approximately 6 acres of pasture on class 4 soils that we would consider for ground level solar array to accomplish this if rooftop space is not sufficient. All of this would be in accordance with the compromise criteria established in the Montgomery County zoning text amendment (ZTA 20-01) for the Agricultural Reserve, a compromise developed in the "County Climate Working Group" convened by the Countty Executive including 62 local and state civic groups, and providing for the following in the Ag Reserve zone:

- Allows ground level Solar which previously not permitted.
- Sets up a conditional use process that considers:
 - Protection of water quality, forests, and farms to keep arrays off slopes and out of stream buffers
 - O Allows solar on cropland with Class 3 and 4+ soils
 - Caps solar arrays at 1800 Ac in the Ag Reserve (4462 acres in the Ag Reserve qualify with these criteria)

We object to the proposed Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf LLC project as designed for the following reasons:

- 1. This project will remove or destroy fertile farmland from the available acreage surrounding the WDC Metropolitan area. As close-in farmland is destroyed, the food supply for the DC Region will need to be trucked in from greater distance, increasing the pollution and expense associated with transportation in bringing the food to market.
 - a. The loss of farmland will mean the loss of carbon capture associated with that farmland, loss of "Urban Heat Island" reduction that farmland provides, as well as ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.

- b. This is not just a few acres of farmland that will be lost. If the PSC does not respect and apply the constraints of the Agricultural Reserve zoning, all that needs to be done to convert fertile farmland into industrial solar arrays is to increase the size of the facility to approx 2MW (5-6 acres). Since approximately 60% of the farmland in MoCo is leased¹, and since long term lease rates for industrial solar arrays are commanding upwards of \$4,000.00 per acre ⁵ compared to approximately \$200.00/ acre for agricultural use, farming in Montgomery county will no longer be economically viable. Further, as the number of farms diminishes, the necessary support services farm equipment repair and suppliers, farm supply services like lime and fertilizer, etc. will also find MoCo no longer economically viable. Maryland has already lost 12,086 Acres of farmland to development since 2017.¹
- Using farmland, instead of closer-in locations such as parking lots, institutional 2. and government building rooftops, highway median strips, power company transmission line rights of way, etc., means that as much as 35% of the power generated in the PV panels will be lost to line losses bringing that power through distribution and transmission lines into the cities that use the power. Where does that lost energy go? It goes into the atmosphere as heat, further contributing to **global warming.** There is only one reason that the global inventory of solar installations (per Yale 360 report) published in NATURE in 2021 found that 43% of solar installations were located on cropland, grasslands or forests and that only 2.5% of US Solar oower comes from Urban areas.. The reason is that it is **cheaper** for the developers and more profitable for the energy speculators, not that it is more efficient or smarter long term. We believe that the PSC should act in the **public interest** to ensure the most **efficient** production and distribution of power and the most **just** allocation of costs – both **environmental** and economic – as stated in the PSC mission statement. Locating generation facilities remote from their energy requirements at the cost of carbon capture, heating of the atmosphere, and destruction of farming economy does not meet any of these goals.
- 3. This proposed facility is NOT community solar. The majority of the power generated in this facility will be distributed to other locations. If the facility were reduced to the size recommended by the MoCo ZTA 20-01, both the farmland soils criteria and the size limits of the ZTA would be met and the potential for true "community solar" could be met as most of the power could be used locally.
- 4. This proposed facility will compete with existing and future rooftop solar installations for existing transmission/distribution capacity. As proposed, any increase in the distribution and transmission capacity of the system to accommodate this facility would come at the expense of the general public (rate payers) and not the project developers.
- 5. Some project design issues are unacceptable:
 - a. Noise: The proposed Inverters will combine to generate sound power levels of 77 to 80 dB⁴ in a region whose ambient sound levels are in the low 40 dB range. Since noise level is a logarithmic measurement, this increase noise level (from 45dB to 77dB) represents noise that is more than 500 times louder than the ambient sound power level. The adjacent property is entitled to a maximum 55 dBA at the property line per MoCo noise

ordinance. Providing sound enclosures and relocating the inverters to the NW side of the array should be required.

b. **Erosion and pollution of creek:** North and East of the array is a small creek that feeds onto our property and into the Little Monocacy River, which in turn, flows into the Potomac River. That creek, and the Little Monocacy River, are potential water sources for our livestock, and the Potomac is, of course, a primary drinking water source for much of Virginia, DC, and suburbs. Since the plans that we were provided don't label the topographic lines, I cannot determine the likely drainage route from this 10 acres of impervious solar panels. However, it appears that the water pouring off the solar panels will run off into the J&M Andrews farm on one side, and into the southeast corner of the "Conservation Easement forest" (ground which has been left untouched to regenerate as forest, a process that will take about 19 years according to Dr. Boucher). **The plans** do not appear to show any form of retention pond or other means of collection to prevent erosion and to enable all of this water pouring from the impervious surface of the solar panels in a heavy rainstorm to reabsorb into the soil and the aquifer. Further, we are concerned that such runoff might contain contaminants such as cadmium telluride from damaged panels or glyphosate from the weed control that will be required beneath the lower perimeter of the panels where it cannot be maintained by grazing or by mowing.

It should be pointed out that there have been <u>no</u> maintenance procedures or planting practices stipulated in this proposal, and the associated subcontractors have not been acquired and their maintenance procedures have not been required.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard & Beverly Thoms 21700 Big Woods Rd Dickerson, MD 20842

References:

- 1. USDA Agriculture Census 2022
- 2. Yale e360 report published in *Nature* magazine October 2021
- 3. Montgomery Coiunty Clean Energy Working Group report 2019
- 4. Chaberton 6/20/2024 Community Meeting presentation and John Miller email dated 6/23
- 5. MCA presentation to MoCoAlliance.org

From: Marc Imlay
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:31:06 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Marc Imlay ialm@erols.com
2321 Woodberry Drive, Bryans Road, MD, USA 20616
Bryans Road, Maryland 20616

From: nanci wilkinson
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:32:04 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

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ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

nanci wilkinson nanciwilkinson@gmail.com 5502 Glenwood Rd Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From: Marney Bruce
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:32:38 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

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ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Marney Bruce marneyb3@gmail.com 4541 Windsor Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20814

From: Scott Rockafellow
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:33:03 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Scott Rockafellow scott@willowoak.biz 18015 Moore Rd Dickerson, Maryland 20842

From: Ann Connor
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:34:12 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Ann Connor conrfam@aol.com 17325 Soper St Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: Megan Barbour
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:34:41 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

The county set aside the Ag Reserve for a reason, yet it seems that it is now constantly trying to destroy it. Put solar panels on the roofs of county owned buildings in the CBD's or ontop of parking garages!! Please leave the Ag Reserve alone!!!!!!

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Megan Barbour half_shekel@yahoo.com Barnesville Rd Barnesville, Maryland 20838

From: Barry Ridgway
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:42:58 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Barry Ridgway barryridgway@hotmail.com 14430 Sugarland Lane Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: Robert Goldberg
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:48:27 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Robert Goldberg goldbergrn@gmail.com 21404 Davis Mill Road Germantown, Maryland 20876-4422

From: Claire Wolfe
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:55:36 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to ask you to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report explains that the project does not meet the county's policies to balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve. This includes the protection of prime soils that are a finite resource in the reserve.

Please understand, I am not against solar development. And I understand that solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. However, the rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to save areas with prime soil for farmers. This is the only land in the county set aside for farming and farming must not be forgotten in the aim to gather more revenue for the state.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

I urge you to uphold the master plan and commit to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Thank you for your time.

Claire Wolfe c_wolfe2003@yahoo.com 14305 Long Channel Drive Germantown, Maryland 20874

From: Catherine Lemp
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9th Item #9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 10:57:38 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

Grettings! As a voter and longtime Montgomery County resident, I'm writing to support the MoCo Planning Board's staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

As the staff report clearly lays out, the Chaberton Sugarloaf project does not meet current county policies intended to carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve, particularly the protection of prime soils, which are a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. I believe that solar and farming can coexist, but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 to allow solar on the Ag Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a whole new generation of diverse producers out of the only remaining land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of extensive stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, and several more approved projects have been paused by the grid operator, which is unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing, and more projects are being proposed under MoCo's conditional use process.

Please accept my sincere thanks for demonstrating your commitment to the Agricultural Reserve by recommending denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf project's mandatory referral plan - and for clearly communicating this commitment to Maryland's Public Service Commission as they weigh this proposal and others.

Catherine Lemp cathylemp@gmail.com 18407 Jerusalem Church Road Poolesville , Maryland 20837

From: Thaomas Kennedy
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:05:49 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for DENIAL of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

In short, almost any and, in fact, every plan for such a solar project in Maryland and, in particular, Montgomery County, are, at their best, myopic. In the balance of things, such solar farms rob our region from decades of natural and more realistic ecological production and stability, sacrificing that to line the pockets of sympathetic (if not greedy) individuals who, after the short life of such solar farms has expired, have left the same to rot and rust in place, since none of the structure can be recycled or reused. The cost to remove such solar farms would be prohibitive.

Besides that, the staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils AND waterways - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

AS AN ALTERNATIVE to giving away precious lands, the State, County and developers ought to be considering ways to erect their solar farms gridded atop of existing high-rise buildings and other structures throughout cities of Montgomery County and the State!

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Thaomas Kennedy

TomKennedy@OzRealtors.com 16712 Alexander Manor Drive Sandy Spring-, Maryland 20905 From: James Zwiebel MD

To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:21:44 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

James Zwiebel MD zwiebelj@verizon.net 6317 Kenhowe Drive Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From: Daniel Chalk
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:22:56 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Daniel Chalk daniel.m.chalk@gmail.com 14412 long channel circle Germantown, Maryland 20874

From: Jeff Sypeck
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:23:30 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

"Solar farms" clearly are not "farms," any more than a strip mall would be a "retail farm." The Ag Reserve exists for farming, not exploitation by energy firms.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Jeff Sypeck jeffsypeck@gmail.com 19800 Lyndenwood Ave Beallsville, Maryland 20839

From: Sheila Blum
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:24:06 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Sheila Blum sheilablum2@gmail.com 6904 Ridgewood Ave. Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

From: Robert Atack
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:35:09 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Lastly, once the flood gates are opened, there is little hope in closing them. Please do not allow this.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Robert Atack robatack@gmail.com 17520 W Willard Rd. Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: Christa Boroskin
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:41:58 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Christa Boroskin cbbacesj@outlook.com 26313 Forest Vista Dr Clarksburg, Maryland 20871

From: Charles Alexander
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:45:59 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

It's distressing enough to hear that less than prime soil is being allowed to site solar panels. As a person from a farming family (on mothers side) I know substandard soils can be converted to grazing land, as a site for outbuildings, etc. Now that prime soil's are under attack, it cuts even deeper. What is the reserve for anyway - an agreement to be modified or a generations long commitment to a farming way of life??? Let's use the agricultural reserve for the purpose it was established for.

Charles Alexander ch_a_alex@hotmail.com 10308 M Malcolm Circle Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

From: <u>Lawrence Cain</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016 - Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:55:15 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

Dear Mr Harris,

I ask that you and the Planning Board support the staff recommendation that the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan be denied.

The staff report speaks for itself and highlights that this project does not meet the county's policies with respect to both solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve. Prime farming soils are not being protected by this project

Rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain were the result of significant collaboration and are critical to protecting the Ag Reserve for farming - it's intended purpose.

Please continue commitment to the master plan and the Agricultural Reserve. Please this project and future proposals that conflict with the ZTA and the Master Plan.

Thank you.

Lawrence Cain larrycainjr@gmail.com 15801 River Rd Darnestown, Maryland 20874

From: Sarah Demarest
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:55:47 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan. It is imperative that farmers can use the prime soils in the Ag Reserve, and this further supports habitat for local wildlife, including resident and migratory bird species that favor fields and grasslands.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Sarah Demarest bealesarah@gmail.com 7102 Meadow Lane Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

From: Colleen Davies
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:08:25 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Colleen Davies csdavies5@gmail.com 24403 Hipsley Mill Rd Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882

From: James Logie
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:11:07 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

James Logie jamielogie@gmail.com 6414 Ridge Drive Bethesda, Maryland 20816

From: Michael Holdahl
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:16:49 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

Answer this question. What do you do with the metal and plastic (garbage) solar panels once they become non-functional or obsolete?

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Stop messing with our land.

Michael Holdahl mcholdahl@gmail.com 23800 Peach Tree Road Clarksburg, Maryland 20871

From: <u>Steven Kurimchak</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:20:48 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Steven Kurimchak skurimchak@gmail.com 12930 Prices Distillery Rd Clarksburg, Maryland 20871

From: Maryann Brondi
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:27:25 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Maryann Brondi maryann_brondi@hotmail.com 8605 Hempstead Ave Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From: jane thompson
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:37:25 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

there are so many government and commercial buildings that could have solar on them - why not start there rather than good quality soil needed for an ever growing population? also there are lots of parking lots where solar could be put. cars parking under them are shaded in the summer, as well as shading the asphalt in general to reduce the heat.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

jane thompson jayteehike@gmail.com 22621 west harris rd dickerson, Maryland 20842

From: Stacey Schacter
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:39:09 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Stacey Schacter Staceyjschacter@gmail.com 7605 Meadow Lane Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

From: glenn marshall
To: MCP-Chair
Subject: nix solar

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:56:38 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Keep multiple solar panels off our good farmland. Please

Glenn Marshall Frederick, MD

From: glenn marshall

To: MCP-Chair

Subject: Re: Automatic reply: nix solar **Date:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 1:04:55 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Re my e mail

Glenn Marshall

My address is 5601 Avonshire place apt B

Frederick, MD 21703

On Sun, Jan 5, 2025 at 12:56 PM MCP-Chair < mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org > wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Planning Board Chair's Office. This confirms receipt of your message for distribution to appropriate staff to review. If you have submitted an inquiry, we will respond in a timely manner. You may also leave a voice message at (301) 495-4605 and a staff member will return your call.

If you have submitted written testimony for a Planning Board item, please be sure to include your mailing address to satisfy proper noticing requirements. If this was not already included, please reply to this email with that information. Written testimony submitted before the deadline of 12pm, two business days before the scheduled Planning Board meeting, will be distributed to the Board and staff and included in the public record. Written testimony received after the deadline will only be distributed to staff to review.

For more information about the Chair's Office, please visit: https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/

From: John Wehrle
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 1:26:21 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others

In addition to the letter above that I completely agree with, let me say that the Ag .Reserve is a finite resource so that covering prime farm land with solar panels

Destroys that resource. The same goes for Data Centers using water resources that are essential for agriculture.

John Wehrle johnwehrle3@gmail.com 8200 Rocky Road Laytonsville , Maryland 20882

From: <u>Maureen Jais-Mick</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 1:28:41 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

It seems to me that we are constantly having to defend the purposes of the Agricultural Reserve. I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Maureen Jais-Mick jaismick1@verizon.net 7-17 Exfair Road Bethesda, Maryland 20814

From: Carl Gottlieb
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 1:49:32 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Carl Gottlieb cgottlieb50@gmail.com 3309 Ashmore Court Olney, Maryland 20832

From: Christine Rai
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 1:58:08 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Christine Rai sunny_rai@verizon.net 17320 Whitaker Rd Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: Nancy Katherine Deshler Gould

To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 2:03:11 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I have lived in Montgomery County since 2009, and before that from 1985-2007. My husband and I own a condo in King Farm and appreciate careful development as well as preservation of our agricultural heritage and the importance of local production of food. We are active in our community garden. We recognize and value the job you do and the difficult decisions you have to make.

Please vote to deny the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

I understand staff recommended denial as the project does not meet the county's policies that balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve. It is important to protect prime soils. We are already losing so much land to development and our agricultural reserve is a precious resource.

We support solar development. Solar is an important factor to address climate change but the rules set up under ZTA 20-01 must be honored.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Sincerely,

Nancy Katherine Deshler Gould nkdgould@gmail.com 301-254-5849 802 Grand Champion Drive Apartment 401 Rockville, MD 20850

Nancy Katherine Deshler Gould nkdgould@gmail.com 802 Grand Champion Drive, Suite 401 Rockville, Maryland 20850

From: <u>Erika Bucciantini</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 2:04:11 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

Montgomery County's Ag Reserve is a special place.

Developers are drooling over prime farm lands which they hope to develop for cheap this close to VA and DC.

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - an incredibly finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement--including residents like myself. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Please stand firm against big developers in favor of community-led action.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal. Please transmit this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Erika Bucciantini erikabucciantini@gmail.com 22014 Dickerson Rd Dickerson , Maryland 20842

From: Anne Ambler
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 2:21:09 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I fully support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

Montgomery County went to great pains to create a policy that would enable solar in the Agricultural Reserve where prime farming lands were not sacrificed. The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not comply with those policies carefully balancing solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Anne Ambler anambler@gmail.com 12505 Kuhl Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20902-1443

From: Leslie Hubbell
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 2:37:43 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Although this is a form letter, I agree with what is in it. I don't understand why the rules can constantly be challenged by people who are trying to enrich themselves at the expense of those who live here. Governments ought to respect what has been agreed upon. I do hope the Planning Board will stand fast and prevent all the solar money-grubbing just because there is a little open land left in Maryland that might enrich someone at the moment.

I do not oppose solar. My family has already committed to it and we have an array on our roof in Poolesville (in the Ag Reserve) to prove it! I just hope we can keep the solar industry from pushing aside other major human concerns, like the production of food.

Leslie Hubbell hubbell757@gmail.com 17030 Hughes Road Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: <u>Linda Bergofsky</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 2:53:29 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Linda Bergofsky bergo72@hotmail.com 17317 Hughes Road Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: <u>elisabeth.l.fidler@gmail.com</u>

To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 3:33:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

elisabeth.l.fidler@gmail.com 6106 Wilson Ln Bethesda, 20817

From: Maris Miles
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 3:58:19 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others. This matters very much to me as once prime farming land is lost it is very hard if to impossible to recover

Maris Miles glennandmaris@gmail.com 20 Barley Field Court Dickerson, Maryland 20842

From: Suzanne Piner
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 4:54:45 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.to reiterate, I support DENIAL of solar projects in the Ag reserve. Leave alone the gem of Montgomery County.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Suzanne Piner suzanne.piner@hotmail.com Hughes Rd Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: <u>Linda Sumonson</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 5:26:38 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Linda Sumonson Ijsimonson11@gmail.com 12107 mackell In Bowie, Maryland 20715

From: Anne Sturm
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 5:59:56 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

Please listen to your Planning Staff and deny the Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

Farmers, and organizations like the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, and MCA worked hard with the planning staff to come up with a compromise that protected the Agriculture Reserve while allowing solar on poor soil. The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

If you allow such development, it will be the end of the Agriculture Reserve as Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Anne Sturm annets1@aol.com P.O. Box 341, 22120 Beallsville RD Barnesville, Maryland 20838

From: Margie Shultz
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:21:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming. Let's stop this, use farm land to continue to feed people

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Please uphold the master plan and commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others. Deny this proposal!

Margie Shultz margie.shultz@gmail.com 20614 Big Woods Road Dickerson, Maryland 20842

From: Josh Goldman
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:28:15 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I am under 30, am advocate of renewable energy, and a supporter of wise solar siting.

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan. This is a matter of significance.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Josh Goldman joshjgman@gmail.com 15711 Hughes Road Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: <u>Julia Wight</u>
To: <u>MCP-Chair</u>

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:34:47 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Julia Wight
jwight00@gmail.com
20242 McNamara rd
Poolesville, Maryland 20837

From: Velvet Beard
To: MCP-Chair

Subject: January 9, 2025 Item 9 Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf - Mandatory Referral Plan - MR2024016

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:53:37 PM

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Planning Chair Artie Harris,

I'm writing to support the planning staff recommendation for denial of the Chaberton Sugarloaf solar project mandatory referral plan.

The staff report clearly lays out that the project does not meet the county's policies that carefully balance solar and farming in the Agricultural Reserve - notably protection of prime soils - a finite resource.

Solar developers are paying up to 20 times what farmers pay to lease land in the Ag Reserve. Solar and farming can coexist but the careful rules set up under ZTA 20-01 that allowed solar in the Reserve must remain in place to avoid locking a new generation of diverse producers out of the only land in the county set aside for farming.

ZTA 20-01 was the result of lengthy stakeholder engagement. Community solar arrays approved under the ZTA are being built on less-than-prime soils, several more approved projects have been paused in line by the grid operator, unable to process more requests at the speed they are coming in. This backlog is slowly clearing and more projects are being proposed under the county conditional use process.

Thank you for upholding the master plan and a commitment to the Ag Reserve with a denial of this proposal - and transmitting this commitment to the PSC as they weigh this proposal and others.

Velvet Beard velvetvsb2016@gmail.com 19407 umstead Ct Poolesville, Maryland 20837