

From: [Charles County Government](#)
To: [Public Record](#)
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Aviation Business Park ZTA #23-176 and ZMA #23-02
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Aviation Business Park ZTA #23-176 and ZMA #23-02

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information 240-776-6709

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Are you:

Against Topic

Comment

Please see attached Word document for my comments. Additionally, please consider moving the BOCC April 9th Airport Hearing to the Bryan's Road Volunteer Fire Department to better facilitate attendance and feedback from the community who will be impacted by this rezoning proposal. The Town of La Plata is congested and difficult to access during rush hour weekday traffic. Thank you!

Upload File(s)

[Comments on ZTA #23-176 and ZMA #23-02_040924.docx](#)

Thank you,

Charles County, MD

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I respectfully submit the following comments for the Commissioner's consideration. When this rezoning was previously open for public comment in 2021, the public was overwhelmingly AGAINST this proposal, with 75% of public comments in opposition to the rezoning. This is a proposed expansion to a private airport that will not benefit the community in any tangible way. Residents will have no access to the airport (unless they can afford to purchase a private jet) and an expansion will only benefit wealthy private plane owners who will create additional noise and air pollution in our County, including less than a mile away from a public elementary and middle school, and exacerbate environmental destruction of the beloved Mattawoman Creek watershed. Why do the children and residents of western Charles County have to suffer for the benefit of a few wealthy private plane owners?

According to Maryland DNR, the Mattawoman Creek is one of the State of Maryland's most significant natural resource areas. All residents of Charles and the surrounding counties benefit from and enjoy the Mattawoman Creek and connected waterways and rivers. Please do not further jeopardize and destroy this critical ecosystem, open for enjoyment by all, in order to benefit wealthy developers and millionaires who fly private jets! The Watershed Conservation District was established for a reason, the private airport must be held to the same zoning standards within the WCD just like all other landowners in the WCD, without exception. Otherwise, this sets a dangerous precedent that the health and well-being of our residents and one of Charles County's most valuable natural resources is up for sale to make life more convenient for millionaires. PSM Holdings LLC and PSM Ventures LLC purchased the airport and surrounding land in 2019 with the knowledge that the land is part of the Watershed Conservation District. If they had an issue with the zoning then they should have considered that before purchasing these properties.

Expansion of this airport is not in line with the Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan which outlines goals to achieve 60% climate pollution reductions by 2031 and to be on track to net zero emissions by 2045. Maryland has one of the most ambitious net zero goals of any state in the country and Charles County must put in effort to help the state reach this net zero goal. The average single-engine piston aircraft uses highly toxic leaded gasoline. This type of aircraft should not be encouraged in our County or State. In 2016, the EPA noted that piston-engine planes are the largest source of lead particles in the air. This is the only transportation fuel in the U.S. that contains lead. Lead pollution can have devastating health impacts, particularly for children, who are going to be the most exposed to lead pollution as they attend school within half a mile of lead-fueled private planes.

Lastly, there is no argument for increased jobs as a result of the rezoning and airport expansion. If there was going to be an influx of jobs, it would have already happened. This airport has been in operation for decades, and the latest information I could find from 2021 indicated the airport employs a total of only FOUR individuals. Additionally, the millionaire/corporate private jet owners who use this airport are going to go to the National Harbor in Prince George's County, or Washington DC, to spend their wealth, leaving a trail of pollution in their wake for Charles County to deal with, while not contributing to our economy.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of my comments and encourage the Commissioners to prioritize the health and well-being of their constituents over the private interests of corporations and millionaires.