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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

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College of Southern Maryland

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As the Charles County Board of County Commissioners consider Zoning Text Amendment 23-176 and Zoning Map Amendment 23-02 with regard to an Aviation Business Park in western Charles County, the College of Southern Maryland provides the following testimony for informational purposes.

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Charles County Bill 2024-07, Zoning Text Amendment #23-176

Charles County Bill 2024-08, Zoning Map Amendment #23-02

Aviation Business Park

April 9, 2024

As the Charles County Board of County Commissioners consider Zoning Text Amendment 23-176 and Zoning Map Amendment 23-02 with regard to an Aviation Business Park in western Charles County, the College of Southern Maryland provides the following testimony for informational purposes.

As presented at the March 3, 2024 County Commissioner meeting, this Zoning Text Amendment and Zoning Map Amendment for an Aviation Business Park are anticipated to create development opportunities to support the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head and attract businesses compatible with the Maryland Airport, specifically aircraft maintenance and avionics.

These development opportunities would be of specific benefit for CSM and our students due to two Federal Aviation Administration Aviation degree pathways currently being developed that will provide our students, especially military veterans, the knowledge, skills, and necessary credentials for in-demand certifications necessary for careers in the aviation industry. These two pathways include Professional Pilot and Aviation Maintenance Technology. It is anticipated the programs will open dual enrollment offerings and articulation pathways with high schools offering flight academy programs, as well as lead to transfer partnerships with four-year universities to students interested in bachelor's degrees in aviation science or aerospace engineering.

To support these pathways, CSM would seek partnerships with aviation companies and military installations in Southern Maryland for apprenticeships and internships for our students. CSM's proximity to numerous military installations including Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head, local airports such as Maryland Airport in Charles County, the Western Charles County Technology Corridor, and potential businesses within an Aviation Business Park would provide the opportunity for a range of external partners who can provide critical support to the college in developing these two aviation pathways.

The local aviation employment demand was demonstrated through feedback from CSM's Connecting and Convening: Making an Impact Together event, held September 15, 2023, in which over 90 business, government, and military leaders in the community participated. The findings revealed the need to expand partnerships with regional military bases to provide needed certification programs to meet the growing workforce needs for skilled technical professionals. The Aviation Business Park may be a valuable resource as CSM develops aviation programs.

Dr. Yolanda S. Wilson
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