

Carol DeSoto

From: Charles County Government <applications@charlescountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Public Record
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Preliminary 2021 State legislative Proposals

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Preliminary 2021 State legislative Proposals

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IP Address: 160.111.254.17
Submission Date: 09/25/2020 10:27
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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

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Are you:

For Topic

Comment

Good Morning, I am writing as a member of the Charles County Rural Planning and Zoning Task Force, a farm owner, and most importantly a constituent and Charles County tax payer. I am in support of the Agritourism Bill again to be submitted as part of Charles County's Legislative package for this year's State Session. As farmers increasingly look to ways to preserve their farm and make a living, agri-tourism is more and more an important part of a diversified operation. Farms provide quality of life, locally grown food, and opportunities for those not engaged in farming to get out on the land. In summary, the bill adds Charles County to the existing list of counties in Maryland that currently allow an agricultural building to be used for agritourism for up to 200 people without requiring a change of occupancy. A couple of things of note: * it does NOT pose a public safety risk as other requirements are still in place such as requiring the building to be sound, proper roadways, and sanitation be in place. * the other counties in Maryland (Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Garrett County, Howard County,

Kent County, Prince George's County, and St. Mary's County) have successfully implemented this change and we are only asking for the same consideration * we currently allow this in Charles County for up to 50 people with no issue and this is just asking it be increased to 200 people like the other counties * unanimously approved by Charles County Commissioners before being submitted last year * it was vetted and approved by the local fire and EMS * it was approved by the Charles County Economic Development Department * it was approved by the Planning & Growth Management department and they even helped present it to the Commissioners for approval * it was developed and submitted originally by a County Commissioner appointed task force that worked many volunteer hours.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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