

Carol DeSoto

From: Charles County Government <applications@charlescountymd.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 10:40 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 10:40
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You have a new online form submission.

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Public Hearing Comment Form

Questions or More Information (301) 645-0570

Name

Serenity Farm

Address

PO Box 305
6932 Serenity Farm Road
BenedictMaryland20612

Phone

3012743829

Email

serenityfarm1@gmail.com

Are you:

For Topic

Comment

Good Morning, we at Serenity Farm are writing as farm owners, and most importantly constituents and Charles County tax payers. We are 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. 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. * 10 counties in Maryland 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. We ask that this be allowed to move forward to the Maryland State Legislature. Thank you.

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Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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