Good evening Commissioners – thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My name is Pam Frank, and I am Executive Director of the Military Alliance Council, the MAC. I am also a lifelong resident of Indian Head. I live here, work here, and have raised a family here.

I am speaking as one voice on behalf of the Military Alliance Council (MAC) Board of Directors, all 13 of whom are very much in favor of rezoning of the land surrounding the MD Airport. Our board consists of Charles County business owners, an attorney, consultants, retirees, former educators, retired military, and residents, again of Western Charles and Charles County proper. We understand the POSITIVE impact it will have on jobs, transportation, safety, commerce, education, and quality of life in OUR County. We believe in facts, not fiction.

Here are 5 Facts why the Military Alliance Council is in full support of the rezoning:

**Fact #1** This is not an amendment to rezone or enlarge the airport, it is an amendment to **rezone the land** that surrounds the Maryland Airport, a significant component of the Federal and State air infrastructure.

**Fact #2** As one of only 5 privately owned/publicly used airports in the United States, the Maryland Airport serves as a flight school, houses emergency responder aircraft, and supports programs such as the Civil Air Patrol, our local schools, veterans’ organizations, Pilots-n-Paws and Patient Air Lift. We want to be able to support these efforts with appropriate infrastructure.

**Fact #3** For folks in opposition calling in tonight, who by the **way many do NOT live in Charles Co**, please note that of the 558 acres under consideration**, only 60 percent or less of that land will be suitable for development…** and those areas that can be developed will be subject to strict environmental and stormwater regulations to help ensure any development achieves net zero impact on the environment.

**Fact #4** Addressing the false narrative that rezoning the land surrounding the airport will degrade both the health of the community and the biodiversity of the watershed – this is totally unfounded and is being used as a scare tactic. The County’s history of protecting the Mattawoman is well established and has more than adequate regulations in place to protect it.

Additionally, the health of our community being at risk is also unfounded. According to the FAA – who regulates all airports, including those much more complicated than this small feeder airport – have found no significant noise and air quality impacts to our region.

**Fact #5** For years, the western part of our county has experienced the imbalance of jobs versus protecting the environment. Again, this false narrative regarding the watershed is COSTING our residents good paying jobs, educational opportunities, and economic health. Based on the market analysis and increased interest expressed by potential employers, there is increased demand for airport infrastructure AND this means JOBS! Significant paying jobs and opportunities for a faction of our population is at risk.

In closing, I know that you, the Commissioners, will take the MAC Board, our residents, our businesses, and assets in Charles County into consideration and vote in favor for this rezoning amendment**. Listen to your residents and vote on the facts not the fiction…. Thank you in advance for your favorable support to rezone the land surrounding the MD Airport.**