



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone
3 West Wing, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Support SB 418

Dear Senator Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 418 so that farm alcohol production, agricultural processing, agritourism, and other important agricultural activities are rightfully considered as agriculture for the purposes of State tax assessments. This change will support the further growth of these businesses, which add value to our economy and are important to sustain farmers and the broader agricultural community.

Over the last decade, the County Council District I represent has seen a welcome increase in vineyards, breweries, and cideries connected to farms, as well as other forms of agritourism. These businesses bring people to farms so they can enjoy locally-produced agricultural goods and local venues, boosting our economy. They also expand the agricultural products for sale to residents who live in urban and suburban areas.

These activities serve as an important economic tool for many farmers in Montgomery County to preserve their agricultural lands for agricultural use and provide a farm-fresh product that our local farmers can sell directly at their farms, at farmers markets, and in concert with other local small businesses.

By rightfully recognizing these activities as agricultural entities in our property taxes, we are promoting their continued success and encouraging further innovation in the areas of agritourism, equine activities, alcohol production, roadside stands, and other value-added agricultural activities. Please support local agriculture by supporting SB 418.

Yours Truly,

Dawn Luedtke,
Councilmember, District 7
Montgomery County