



February 17, 2025

Dear Delegate Wivell and Senator Corderman,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0749 and SB580, which aim to allow existing agricultural buildings to be utilized for agritourism without the need for a change of occupancy permit.

Agritourism offers valuable opportunities for farmers like me to diversify their income, educate the public about agriculture, and strengthen the local economy. It also gives the means and incentive for farmers to restore existing buildings and share open space with the community. By allowing these structures to serve dual purposes, we can preserve our agricultural heritage while fostering new business ventures.

The requirement for a change of occupancy permit can be cost-prohibitive and time-consuming, hindering farmers from adapting to changing market demands. By removing this barrier for agritourism, we can enhance the viability of family farms and encourage sustainable agricultural practices.

I urge you to support HB0749 and SB580 and help us unlock the full potential of my farm and our agricultural community as a whole.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Julie Stinar
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