



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 14, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Stella Koch, Chairman  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

**SUBJECT:** Zoning Changes Must Not Degrade Fairfax County's Water Supply Protection

Upon the April 2021 advertisement of the proposed agritourism zoning ordinance amendment changes, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) noted the potential to impact the Watershed Protection Overlay District (WPOD). Typically, EQAC would meet with County Staff to discuss the expected environmental impacts of any zoning change that may impact WPOD at an EQAC meeting. The Ordinance change schedule did not allow time to schedule a typical staff presentation; however, we appreciate staff's April briefing of Council members George Lamb and Renee Grebe. The proposed amendment was discussed at EQAC's meetings on May 12, 2021 and June 9, 2021<sup>1</sup>.

After careful consideration, EQAC is opposed to any change to zoning regulations that compromises the safety and security of the County's drinking water supply.

Our interpretation of the proposed changes includes the potential to increase impervious area of the WPOD, particularly in the protected R-C zoned area of the WPOD. Doing so would be a damaging compromise. This WPOD was established in 1982 by Fairfax County BOS to protect the Occoquan Drinking Water Reservoir. We must be vigilant in continuing this protection. EQAC opposes the changes proposed without the addition of specific and stringent provisions to prevent significant degradation of the environment in the most critical areas of the R-C areas of the WPOD.

We would be pleased to work with the Board of Supervisors to develop the specific language needed to make the proposed changes acceptable.

cc: Sara Morgan, Senior Planner, Zoning Administration Division, DPD  
Leslie Johnson, Zoning Administrator, Zoning Administration Division, DPD  
William Mayland, Deputy Zoning Administrator, Zoning Administration Division, DPD  
Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

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<sup>1</sup> The attached letter provides details of EQACs deliberations.