



Date: 21 May 2014

Good evening my name is Stuart Kohn and I'm the President of the Howard County Citizens Association. We support the proposed Bill 21 to remove Composting Facilities as a conditional use. The plight of the proposed composting facility in Dayton or in any Agricultural preservation land would be sinful at best. There is absolutely no room for compromise on this issue simply because as you've heard and seen tonight by the Dayton Preservation Group in their most persuasive testimony regarding the impact of quality of life issues associated with developing a composting facility. I know the Council is a great believer in compromising, but this is one case when your decision can be nothing more than the approval of Bill 21-2014 especially given the overwhelming negative evidence presented to you tonight.

The definition of "Preserve" is -- To maintain in safety from injury, peril, or harm; protect to keep in perfect or unaltered condition; maintain unchanged and to keep or maintain intact. So why not disapprove Bill 20 and simply say "YES" to Bill 21. You have to ask yourselves what is the compelling need of a composting facility especially in a rural area? It's obvious the current roads and array of safety hazards are too risky in any way to entertain such an establishment.

On page 3 of this Bill referring to Section 106.1 – County Preservation Easements under Conditional uses it states, "Conditional Uses shall not be allowed on agricultural preservation easements unless they support the primary agricultural purpose of the easement property, or are an ancillary business which supports the economic viability of the farm." One has to simply ask when a potential enterprise has the problems such as a composting facility then whatever economic benefit gained should in no way be considered as there is no benefit if it's potentially harmful to the residents. Preservation means to protect not to develop or compromise.

Yes – compromise is good when truly warranted and when it makes sense, but in this case compromise would be detrimental to the citizens and voters. As Council representatives your first obligation is to ensure the people that their quality of life in no way deteriorates because of poor decisions and that you share and completely understand the voter's concerns.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
Howard County Citizens Association, President