



Maryland Department of Planning

Sustainable \_\_\_\_\_ Attainable

October 11, 2012

Roger Berliner, Chairman  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Chairman Berliner,

Thank you for providing the Department of Planning with a copy of Ordinance Number 17-20 adopted by the Montgomery County Council on September 18, 2012. This ordinance establishes growth tiers under the Maryland Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Act of 2012 for Montgomery County and references the official map displaying the Growth Tier areas.

The Act allows the Department to comment on mapped growth tiers when the Department determines that the growth tiers do not meet the criteria established by the Act.

The Maryland Department of Planning is pleased to advise you that the map adopted by Ordinance Number 17-20 satisfies the criteria for designation of growth tiers under the Maryland Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Act of 2012. The Department therefore has no comments on the adopted map.

Please be advised that the growth tiers shall be incorporated into the County's comprehensive plan or an element of the plan when the County conducts its six year review of the plan. If the growth tiers are not incorporated into the comprehensive plan or an element of the plan during that 6-year review, Senate Bill 236 provides that the growth tiers may not be considered as adopted and the restrictions on major subdivisions outside sewered areas shall apply.

Municipalities within Montgomery County may be submitting growth tier maps to the Department. To date, we have not received tier maps from any municipalities within the County. Should there be any conflicts between municipalities' mapping and that of the County, the Act provides a process for resolution. We do not anticipate that such maps would be in conflict with the criteria under the Act or with the County's adopted map.

We would like to recognize the County's staff for their work in preparing the County's growth tier map.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Josephson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rich Josephson  
Director of Planning Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary  
Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary