

Timestamp	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself?	If no, what organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation	Position	Remarks	Attachments
Bill No. 82-24											
2024-11-18 7:58:53	Debra	Luziotti-Myers	Odenton	MD	21113	Yes		Bill No. 82-24: (As Amended) AN ORDINANCE concerning: Real Property Taxes – Tax Credits –Retired Veterans	Support	I recommend the County Council pass this bill. As a veteran and a member of the Anne Arundel County Commission on Veterans Affairs, I encourage the County Council to pass Bill No. 82-24. This bill is important to ensure that more veterans are eligible to apply for the credit as eligibility has declined due to the increase in assessed value of homes in Anne Arundel County. (The Commission voted to support this bill, and I anticipate there will be testimony coming formally from the Chair of the Commission.) Veterans are good neighbors and hardworking assets to our community. We should try to encourage them to live in Maryland and Anne Arundel County specifically. This bill will help address the disparity in tax credits/benefits available to veterans in surrounding states.	
2024-11-18 9:36:50	Ronald	Borro	Arnold	MD	21012-1822	No	Anne Arundel Ve	Bill No. 82-24: (As Amended) AN ORDINANCE concerning: Real Property Taxes – Tax Credits –Retired Veterans	Support	The Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs Commission voted unanimously to encourage the County Council to pass Bill No. 82-24. This bill is important to ensure that more veterans are eligible to apply for the tax credit as eligibility has declined due to the increase in assessed value of homes in Anne Arundel County. Veterans are good neighbors and hardworking assets to our community. One of the Commission's goals is to encourage veterans to reside in Maryland and specifically in Anne Arundel County. This bill will help address the disparity in tax credits/benefits available to veterans in surrounding states. We strongly recommend that the County Council pass this bill. //s// Ronald Borro, Vice Chair, Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs Commission	
Bill No. 83-24											
2024-11-16 19:51:44	Julianne	Getting	Severn	MD	21144	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Oppose	I have been a long standing member of the equestrian community starting in my youth and continue to be one of this County. I want to see this property, which was bought for the public benefit to be accessible for equestrian pursuits. One of the largest supports of our agricultural segments of the County are HORSES, and the County needs to do more to support that industry.	
2024-11-17 20:12:34	Brad	Harris	West River	MD	20778	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Support	Ross and Dale Moreland are like family to us because we greet them multiple times a day when they arrive to care for their animals for the past 17 years. They were here prior to us buying our home, and close friends with the original owners of the farm, the Kinder family and we have known them now for 17 years. They manage cattle that are well cared for 20 yards from our home, the front view from all of our windows is a beautiful cow pasture that they maintain, fixing fences, moving round bales, and mowing twice a year to prevent weeds. They help us every year when they plow snow in the driveway, fill potholes in our driveway, mow to prevent weeds, and call us when there are suspicious cars down our driveway. Just to give you an idea how often we greet them 6-7am 365 day a year feeding the cattle and they are extremely friendly, and we care about them and their ability to renew their lease for the next ten years. If Anne Arundel County's vital commitment is to preserve farming in Maryland it should be an easy vote to offer Ross and Dale Moreland another ten-year lease on the property to grow crops and raise cattle. We could not think of better stewards of the Rockhold Creek Farm - no one cares more about the farm than they do. If there are members of the county that would like equestrian riding on the farm that is fine, but we hope that they can co-exist because there are many acres for trails in the woods for horses and Ross could continue to manage the open fields that require mowing multiple times a year. Thanks for your consideration to offer Ross Moreland another ten year lease at Rockhold Creek Farm, we hope that you understand how much this decision means to our family and that living here would not be the same without Ross and Dale Moreland. Sincerely, Brad and Katy Harris 5337 Sudley Road, West River, Maryland 20778.	

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2024-11-17 21:40:56	Jacqueline	Guild	Edgewater	MD	21037	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Oppose	<p>Testimony on Bill No. 83-24</p> <p>Submitted by: Jacqueline Guild 3966 Germantown Road Edgewater, MD 21037</p> <p>Date: November 17, 2024</p> <p>Bill No. 83-24 concerns a 10-year lease for the use of 115 acres of the 396-acre Rockhold Creek Farm on Sudley Road in West River Maryland to Shady Oaks Turf Farm.</p> <p>This property was acquired in 2006 by Anne Arundel County with program open space funds along with some County funds. The deed transferring the property specifically stated that the property was to be used for "(A) a working demonstration farm or some other agricultural use, (B) a public park, or (C) public athletic, recreational, health, and/or education purposes. While this lease certainly falls within the agricultural use" contemplated by the deed terms it certainly should not be the only use considered by the County. This has been the case despite the fact that the property was acquired with program open space funds and according to the terms of the deed should be used in ways that are open to the public and for the benefit of the public. In fact, the terms of the deed and the size of the property allow for the concurrent use of the property in multiple ways. No one party should have exclusive use of the property. Therefore, I respectfully suggest that it is premature to take action on this lease without considering other options for the property and convening a work force to examine those options with full opportunity for community input. The County could become locked into a long-term lease that could preclude better options. At the very least, I recommend limiting the extension of the lease to one year while a full evaluation of all options may be considered. Regardless, there needs to be a more transparent public discussion about the use and management of this property before agreeing to a 10-year lease.</p> <p>The equestrian community, of which I am a member, has made suggestions over the years regarding how the Rockhold property can be used to benefit the public and fill a gap in equestrian resources in Anne Arundel County. The equestrian community was at the table in 2005 when the funding decision was made to acquire the property. Anne Arundel County's Recreation and Parks 2017 and 2022 plans included a "Rockhold Creek Equestrian Facilities" plan to include horse trailer parking and riding facilities. Members of the equestrian community have followed up on these plans with meetings with Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks and letters to the County Executive outlining ways to initiate limited equestrian use of the Rockhold property. However, there has been no response or follow up from the County and no action on the County's own initiative for the past 18 years apart from this one lease for the exclusive benefit of one entity. (There may be some limited use of the property by Future Farmers of America and 4-H; however, I cannot confirm such use.)</p> <p>The equestrian community is a significant and important cultural and economic resource to Anne Arundel County. However, many of the boarding and training facilities are "landlocked" - that is, due to development and other impediments riding is limited to individual farm properties. There are few farm properties that can accommodate trail riding and cross country, conditioning, and other types of training for various equestrian disciplines. In addition, part of the sport, and part of the fun, is riding off property, exposing horses to new sights, sounds, and terrain. Currently, there are very few places in Anne Arundel County for such experiences and those places are limited in their facilities. Most equestrians travel outside of Anne Arundel County for trail riding, cross country schooling and conditioning rides. This is shameful considering that the County has owned the Rockhold property for 18 years and it is ideally suited for equestrian use.</p> <p>The open and unobstructed fields and existing trails and farms roads of the Rockhold property allow it to be used immediately for trail riding, hunter places, Pony Club and 4-H events, and horse shows (dressage, show jumping, horse trials). (Even if the sod farm is allowed to extend its lease for one year, that lease should not preclude equestrian use on other areas of the property and around the perimeter of the leased area (equestrians are accustomed to riding the edges of active agricultural lands.)) Riders are accustomed to carrying their own water for their horses and carrying out their waste. Therefore, water and other improvements are not needed for initial use of the facility. Additional improvements could be made in phases over time. Cross country jumps, riding rings, steeple chase, and other improvements could create an equestrian jewel in the Anne Arundel County park system that would be used by clubs, school groups, and others. Agricultural education and other agricultural activities could easily co-exist and complement the equestrian uses of the Rockhold property.</p> <p>Again, I respectfully request that the County Council consider all the options for the use of the Rockhold Creek Farm property with proper deference given to the intended use of the property respecting its natural setting and future stewardship of its cultural and agricultural assets. I am pleased to assist the Council in any way I can with additional information or serving in any advisory capacity.</p>	

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2024-11-18 7:21:43	Lyla	Harris	West River	MD	20778	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Support	I've known Ross since I was born and he is always friendly and kind when I see him. He looks out for our family a great deal and is incredibly hardworking. He takes great care of the property near where I live, making the fields and cows look so beautiful. I would love for Ross to continue his work here on the farm.	
2024-11-18 7:44:54	C. Jane	Cox	Gambrills	MD	21054	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Oppose	<p>As a life long equestrian and resident of the County, I have watched development encroach and open space for trail riding has evaporated. Like a majority of horse owners in Anne Arundel, there are few options for riding outside of a ring, unless one has access to trails on private lands.</p> <p>There is a profound lack of viable equestrian uses on public lands in the County, and I regularly trailer 1 hour or more neighboring counties to ride, because the offerings in my own County are inadequate.</p> <p>The 396-acre Rockhold Creek Farm was acquired in 2006 with public funds, and was supposed to be a place that would highlight agriculture, offer recreational opportunities, and be accessible to the public.</p> <p>Eighteen years have now passed. This private lease could restrict public use for another 10 years, and I ask that you consider adding an amendment to 83-24 to ensure that the lease will not infringe on the availability of this land for future equestrian uses.</p> <p>I'm also asking the County to diligently work with all facets of the equestrian community to fulfill plans set forth in the 2017 and 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, which explicitly stated that the farm was to be developed to include and accommodate equestrian use which proposes "Rockhold Creek Park Equestrian Facilities." (Page III-43 of the 2017 plan) .</p> <p>One of the biggest agricultural segments of the County's economy are HORSES, and the County needs to do more to support horse owners, farms, and related businesses.</p>	https://www.aacounty.org/system/files/webform/cc_legislative_testimony/42767/supplementalbill83-24.pdf
2024-11-18 10:06:26	Gerardo	Martinez	Edgewater	MD	21037	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Oppose	It is quite obvious that the county has taken a stance to engage in the success of a single private entity with its leases of land. It is the opinion of our community that the land should at the very minimum take in to consideration community input by way of vote through the council prior to consideration of any lease. Then when agreed upon use by the community that it be put up to public and open bid. This is obviously government choosing to close county owned land to the public and ensure the success of one individual. The lack of competition and public access to this land not only limits its uses but also ensures the community will no longer engage in future development of the public programs that can expand on that property.	
2024-11-18 10:57:00	Christine	Catterton	Harwood	Maryland	20776	No	Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau	Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Support	As President of Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau we give full support for Mr. Moreland/Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc. to continue raising cattle on the Rockhold Creek Farm in West River, MD. Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc is the legal name of the farm. This farm also raises beef cattle, row crops and such. Allowing this type of farming in the county will provide food and fiber to people.	
2024-11-18 10:58:10	Steve	Sutton	West River	Maryland	20778	Yes		Bill No. 83-24: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the First Amendment to Farm Rental Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Inc.	Support	<p>I would like to see Ross Moreland continue with his work maintaining the cattle, crops and hay. His work is the reason the property is beautifully maintained for our community. We can see the fresh cut fields that prevent weeds and the beautiful pasture where the cattle graze. If he can't continue what is the AA County plan to maintain the property? It will be a weed patch if not maintained well as it is now.</p> <p>Thanks, Steve Sutton 5324 Sudley Rd. West River MD.</p>	