

Russell Brothers
Mr. LeRoy Russell
P.O. Box 67
Morganza, MD

February 15, 2013

Clerk to the Board of Appeals
Planning Division
P.O. Box 2150
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Charles County Board of Appeals,

I would like to express my support for Mr. Richard Turner's request to operate a processing facility on his farm. My brothers and I participated in the Maryland tobacco buyout program. As part of our transition out of the tobacco industry, we expanded our beef operation. We now sell custom beef to our customers. Mr. Turner provided a valuable to service to our farm operation. He did an excellent job in processing our beef for our customers. His services are vital to sustaining the agriculture community throughout Southern Maryland. I hope you will consider the importance of his operation to the farm community.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Leroy Russell

P A Bowen Farmstead
15701 Doctor Bowen Road
Brandwine, Maryland 20613

February 15, 2013

Charles County Board of Appeals
Attention: Carrol Everett
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Board:

I am writing to urge you to approve the Special Exception to operate a slaughterhouse and variances for the petition of Richard and Carol Turner.

Our farm produces pasture-raised veal, beef and pork, which we sell in our on-farm store. Currently we must drive about three hours to a USDA-inspected slaughter facility. This means three hours to take the animals and three hours to return to the farm, and then three hours to pick up the meat and another three hours to return.

There are many other grass-based operations in Southern Maryland with the same problem. Having a USDA-inspected facility so close by would be a real boon to Southern Maryland farmers and would raise property values of both residential and agricultural properties. It would contribute to Southern Maryland prosperity in numerous ways.

I understand that this facility has operated without problem for eleven years, and that the only concern is the road to the building. With the extra business the Turners will have with USDA inspection, they will easily be able to maintain the road.

Please support Southern Maryland farmers and all property owners by approving the slaughterhouse variances for Rick and Carol Turner.

Sincerely yours,



Sally Fallon Morell
Owner
(301) 579-2404
pabowenfarmstead.com

17310 Milltown Landing Road
Brandywine, MD 20613-8615

February 15, 2013

Board of Appeals
Charles County Government Building
200 Baltimore Street
LaPlata, MD 20646

Re: Rick's Place

Dear Board Members:

We are writing in support of Rick's Place and hope you will allow the variances necessary for Mr. & Mrs. Richard Turner to continue to operate the slaughterhouse at its present location.

We know of Rick's Place through their support of area food pantries and have found Mr. Turner to be extremely generous by processing the venison which is distributed to those in need.

On our visits we found we were the only traffic on the road to his place and we certainly drove very slowly. The road was in suitable condition for a gravel road.

We attended the hearing on February 12, 2013 and were surprised at the objections raised and also surprised Mr. Roger Fink was allowed to speak much longer than the allotted three minutes, whether by intent or oversight.

Please consider all possible means to allow the Turners to continue their business.

Sincerely,



Clifford A. Jenkins



Roberta W. Jenkins



Environmental Education on the Potomac

February 15, 2013

Ms. Carroll Everette
Secretary of the Board of Appeals
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Ms. Everette,

I attended the recent hearing concerning the desire for Rick and Carol Turner to continue to operate a slaughterhouse on their property and become USDA certified. I am the Farm Manager of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Hard Bargain Farm in Accokeek which. We are both a working farm and an environmental education facility. I have been using Rick's place for the butchering of livestock for several years. He has always been very professional, clean, prompt and courteous.

We have begun raising grass fed beef to sell to the public, but if the meat is not being processed at a USDA certified facility, it cannot be resold. We have been taking our animals to the nearest USDA certified butcher which is 80 miles away, resulting in a significant cost for the 160 mile roundtrip. We would welcome the opportunity to have a USDA certified facility in southern Maryland. Southern Maryland does not have any butchers (that I know of) which are certified. The need is great and many small farms like our own would applaud this move by Charles County.

With respect to concern about the effects of increased traffic on dirt roads, we have experience in this arena as all of the roads at Hard Bargain Farm are similarly constructed. I sincerely hope the road issue can be resolved. We know from experience that they do require maintenance but they are safe and dust is not an issue, particularly if you drive slowly and respectfully.

The need for a USDA certified facility in southern Maryland is great and we wholeheartedly support this endeavor and hope to see it come to a successful conclusion. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,


Eileen Watts
Farm Manager

2001 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, Maryland 20607
Phone 301.292.5665
Fax 301.292.1070

1367 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 420
Washington, DC 20036
Phone 202.292.8203
Fax 202.292.8206