

**Regarding: Global Mission Church (GMC) Requests for Zoning Classification Change (UR 41 – UR 42)**

Dear Mr. Gugel and Members of the Frederick County Planning Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of the Urbana Area Comprehensive Plan in general. Specifically, I am deeply concerned that GMC seeks to change the classification of two particularly sensitive parcels along Little Bennett Creek. I respectfully oppose the reclassification of those parcels.

One view of a topographical map of this parcel in relationship to the high quality Little Bennett watershed tells the story of why planners included the land in the Resource Conservation Zone in 2010. Steep terrain, high atop the creek below clearly requires an additional level of protection. Moreover, the property's thin soils overlay highly fractured rock and, critically, the Piedmont Sole Source Aquifer, the only source of drinking water for the region's rural wells.

The applicant, in their petition, describes the parcels as vacant. The truth is that the land is host to diverse plant and animal species. As a matter of law and sound public policy, Frederick County is bound to integrate the protection of the environment in all public and private development and land use decisions to promote the health and safety of and enhance the quality of life for all its citizens. Please do not approve the requested zoning change.

Sincerely,