

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

April 7, 2025

Dear Mr. Sunday,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family in response to an unauthorized local ordinance and violation of Pennsylvania's ACRE Law that was recently passed in Westmoreland County, PA that will limit the agriculture operation of our family's National Bicentennial Farm.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve Ordinance No. 2025-01: Authorizing the zoning classification change from Agricultural (A) to Suburban Residential (SR) for property located on tax map [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] this was after multiple families and residents contested the rezoning and issued dire concerns for the lack of infrastructure as well as the negative impact on agriculture in the area. Moreover, residents were encouraged by two supervisors on the board to continue to challenge this rezoning.

Our farm is in an Agricultural Security Area and has been operating on the same land for over 230 years. As of 2005, it is one of only 31 farms in Pennsylvania and the only one in Westmoreland County that has received the Bicentennial Farm Award from the State Department of Agriculture. In 1989, the farm was recognized as one of only 196 farms in the United States that has been worked by the same family for over 200 years. Our farm is located on either side of [REDACTED] and we actively utilize this road for agricultural operation. In recent years, we have found it increasingly difficult and dangerous to maintain farm operations due to the increased vehicle traffic in the area. We are one of several farms in the area being negatively impacted by the recent rezoning ordinances.

This newly zoned area (Ordinance No. 2025-01) is the second of two properties in the area that have been rezoned as suburban residential. We have already seen increased traffic to the area as well as issues with run-off impacting farming operations, and the [REDACTED] has not completed construction of the 300+ houses and residents they intend to add to the property. Numerous residents voiced their opposition to the rezoning of the [REDACTED] citing the same dire concerns for the lack of infrastructure as well as the negative impact on the environment and agriculture in the area. The second property, as mentioned in Ordinance No. 2025-01, will only further exacerbate this issue and devastate the agriculture operations of our farm. With Pennsylvania's profound dedication and focus on agriculture history and land preservation, it would be an absolute shame if the tenth generation of our family, who deeply loves agriculture, did not have a chance to continue the rich history and Pennsylvania heritage of our family farm.

We are respectfully requesting that your office begin a formal review of this rezoning ordinance (Ordinance No. 2025-01). I have included for your review two maps of the areas impacted by the recent zoning ordinances. Figures 1 & 2 are physical maps of the area and Figure 3 is a map of the zoning classifications. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have as well as

provide any additional details or information you may need. We appreciate your review of this matter, as the preservation of Pennsylvania's rich agriculture history is at stake.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Ordinance No. 2025-01 Request for Formal Review Supporting Materials

### Figures 1 & 2

Figure 1

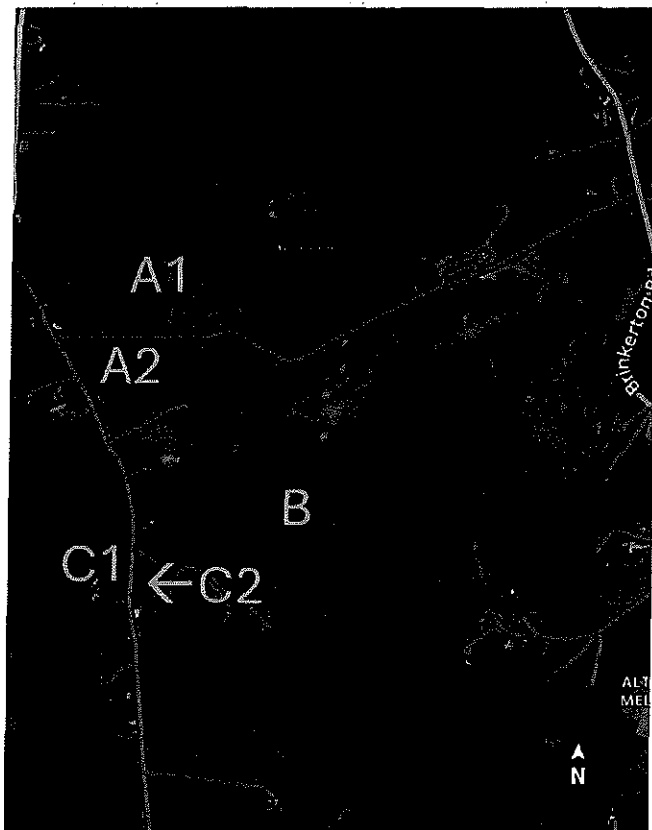
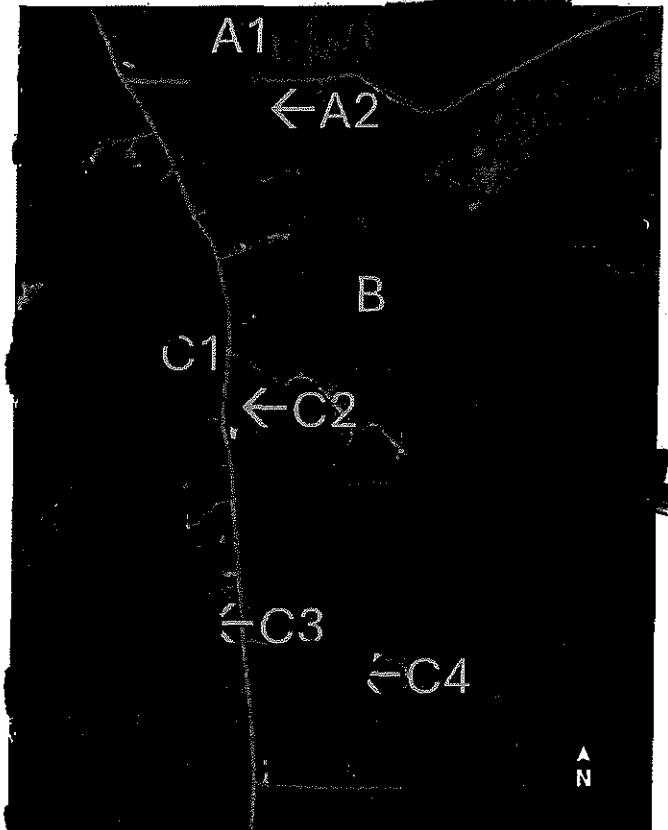


Figure 2

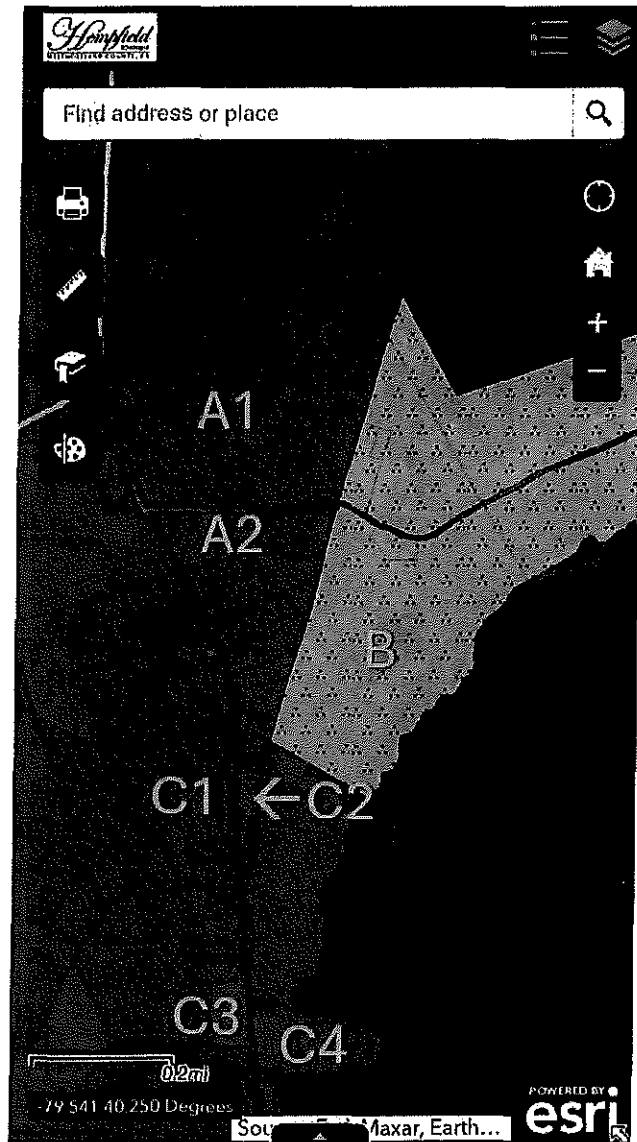


Sections "A1 and A2" is the property indicated in Ordinance No. 2025-01 that has been rezoned from agricultural to suburban residential.

Section "B" is the first property in the area rezoned from agricultural to suburban residential.

Sections "C1, C2, C3, and C4" is our [REDACTED]

Figure 3



Sections "A1 and A2" is the property indicated in Ordinance No. 2025-01 that has been rezoned from agricultural to suburban residential.

Section "B" is the first property in the area rezoned from agricultural to suburban residential.

Sections "C1, C2, C3, and C4" is our [REDACTED]