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Prince George's County Council
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Subject: Opposition to Proposed McDonald's Drive-Through at Ager Road and East-West Highway (DSP-22001)

Dear Members of the Prince George's County Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of a McDonald's drive-through restaurant at the corner of Ager Road and East-West Highway. This project poses significant concerns related to public health disparities, pedestrian safety, and traffic congestion, which I urge the Council to consider when making its decision.

Public Health Disparities

Prince George's County already faces serious health disparities, including high rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease—conditions exacerbated by the prevalence of fast-food options. The development of a McDonald's drive-through at this location would further contribute to unhealthy eating habits, particularly in a community that already lacks sufficient access to fresh and nutritious food options. Instead of approving more fast-food establishments, the County should prioritize policies and developments that promote public health, such as grocery stores with fresh produce and community-centered health initiatives.

Pedestrian Safety Concerns

The proposed location is adjacent to high-pedestrian-traffic areas, including residential neighborhoods, schools, and transit hubs. Introducing a high-volume drive-through restaurant at this intersection poses serious risks to pedestrians, particularly children and the elderly. Increased vehicle movement at a busy crossing could result in more accidents, endangering the safety of residents who rely on walking and public transportation. Given the County's commitment to Vision Zero and improving walkability, approving this development would contradict those goals.

Traffic Congestion

The intersection of Ager Road and East-West Highway is already congested, especially during peak commuting hours. A McDonald's drive-through would further exacerbate traffic bottlenecks, increasing delays and frustration for drivers and transit users alike. The addition of drive-through lanes would encourage more vehicle idling, leading to greater air pollution and negatively impacting the surrounding community. It is crucial that the County considers traffic implications and avoids developments that would worsen existing conditions.

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly urge the Prince George's County Council to deny the application for a McDonald's drive-through at this location. Instead, I encourage the Council to consider alternative developments that better serve the community's health, safety, and transportation needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to making decisions that enhance the well-being of our County's residents.

Sincerely,

Lisa Entzminger