



**MARTIN O'MALLEY**  
GOVERNOR

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

August 12, 2012

Shirley Brandman  
President, Montgomery County Board of Education  
Carver Educational Services Center, Room 123  
850 Hungerford Dr.  
Rockville, MD 20850

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive, Montgomery County  
Office of the County Executive  
Executive Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
101 Monroe St.  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear President Brandman and County Executive Leggett:

I believe we are about to make a big mistake in destroying acres of a productive organic farmland and its soils which could be a priceless asset to the education, health, and well-being of generations of Montgomery students. Specifically, I am writing in regards to Nick Maravell's Brickyard Educational Farm. It is my understanding that despite the inherent value of Mr. Maravell's farm to Montgomery County's students and to our State, its future is in jeopardy.

I understand that these issues are the subject of litigation, and it is not my intent to express any view on the legal merits of the case. However, on policy grounds, there are significant and compelling reasons to preserve this farm for the benefit of the children of Montgomery County.

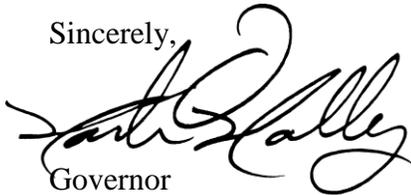
Brickyard Educational Farm aims to teach students about local and sustainable food and agriculture, and to show them how the food they eat is grown. The farm's vision is to supply organic produce for school lunches, and to offer field trips, a Beginning Farmer Program, apprenticeships, and internships to students in neighboring schools. The initiatives offered at Mr. Maravell's organic farm directly align with our State's priorities, including our Agricultural Literacy Program and our Farm to School Program. Furthermore, the farm helps the county meet the requirements of its 'No Child Left Inside' mandate.

As a nation we are doing an awful job at nutrition in our schools. Sadly, in Maryland we are not doing much better. Rather than moving our State backwards through this destructive policy

choice, Montgomery County can and should be a leader. The vital connection between our farms, the food we eat, and our children's future has never been more important than it is right now.

In our State, where believe in growing jobs and growing opportunity; where we believe in children growing healthy, growing educated, and growing strong; where we believe in sustainably growing food for a hungry world; where we believe in growing in our mindfulness, our awareness, and our understanding of the balance we must rediscover and reconcile with the other living systems of this one Earth we choose to share with future generations; we need more assets like Mr. Maravell's farm, rather than fewer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely," and above the word "Governor".

Governor

cc: Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, President, Maryland State Board of Education