

The Fayette Alliance

330 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 281-1202

Executive Director
Elizabeth Knox van Nagell

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Tom Van Meter
Jack van Nagell
Holly Wiedemann

Mayor Teresa A. Isaac & Urban County Council Members
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

November 13, 2006

Dear Mayor Isaac and Council Members,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the Fayette Alliance. The Fayette Alliance is a true coalition of concerned citizens from the agricultural, neighborhood, and urban communities of Fayette County who are dedicated to promoting our irreplaceable farmland, to protecting our unique agricultural enterprises from erosive suburban expansion, and to securing a better, more prosperous future for our entire community.

We are deeply concerned about the proposed Quest Church zone change that is currently pending before the Urban County Council. This zone change primarily addresses the permissible size requirement for churches in the rural services area. Specifically, Quest Church seeks to change the zoning on its rural property from Agricultural-Rural (A-R) to Agricultural-Urban (A-U).

Should the Urban County Council approve this zone change, Quest Church will be able to build a 90,000 square foot worship facility in a core agricultural corridor of Fayette County. Although this proposed structure will accommodate Quest's 2,264-person congregation, it will also bring traffic congestion, noise, increased human populations, and other urban activities to an agriculturally sensitive area. This potential influx of cars and people will most assuredly undermine the rural activities of adjacent farming

operations. Further, Quest's proposal not only jeopardizes Fayette County's signature \$2 billion dollar horse industry, but also the quality of life that is enjoyed by many established neighborhoods located in the area.

Without question, Quest's proposed leap-frog application of the A-U zone repudiates essential principles of the Urban Service Boundary, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Rural Land Management Plan- a progressive land use regime that has served this county extremely well since 1954. Simply stated, Quest's proposal is not about a single piece of property. Rather, it is about establishing a precedent that affects every blade of Fayette County Bluegrass.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject Quest's zone change proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. The Fayette Alliance is grateful for your commitment to responsible land use planning and the welfare of Lexington-Fayette County.

Sincerely,

Knox van Nagell
Executive Director