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February 27, 2019

Dear Ann Arbor City Council:

The Washtenaw County Farm Bureau (WCFB) is writing to express support of the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program.

Local land use planning is essential for the long-term viability of all communities and we must work together to plan the proper long-term utilization of the land.

Purchase of development rights through the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Program is helping to keep farmland in farming and keeping farm families on the family farm.

We support the continued purchase of development rights inside the entire Greenbelt boundary, and particularly inside of the Farmland Complex Boundaries established in the Strategic Plan adopted by the Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

The WCFB supports both temporary and permanent farmland protection tools to stabilize the land base, helping maintain the agricultural industry's competitive position, and aggressively increasing its economic value in the county. We believe investing in farmland protection is an investment in the future of agriculture and the next generation of Washtenaw County farmers and citizens.

The Washtenaw County Farm Bureau is a general farm organization that represents farms of all commodities and sizes. With over 1,100 farmer members, we are the largest agricultural organization in Washtenaw County.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Joe Packard, President  
Washtenaw County Farm Bureau