

VIA EMAIL

From: david@roppcorp.com <david@roppcorp.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 4:20 PM

To: 'Sandy Madison' <smadison@cityofchesapeake.net>

Subject: Dwellings Farms, LLC PLN-USE-2025-024

Dear Mayor West and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Alliance, I am writing in support of Michael and Jessica Dieffenbach and Dwellings Farms regarding their application for a Conditional Use Permit (PLN-USE-2025-024). The Alliance strongly supports agribusiness initiatives that preserve agricultural land and strengthen our city's rural heritage.

Earlier this year, in July, City Council approved an outdoor event center on 800 acres off Ansell Road—an effort that was widely supported by nearby residents, local businesses, and the surrounding community. The Dieffenbach's share this same spirit of stewardship and wish to preserve their property in Chesapeake, generating income for their family while protecting farmland from residential development.

Their current request seeks to allow an existing structure on Baum Road (34 acres)—already used occasionally for family and community gatherings—to be used as a public facility for small indoor events without requiring a new permit each time. The Dieffenbachs have received only positive feedback from past events, with no complaints from neighboring residents.

The proposed events include small weddings, birthday celebrations, civic and business meetings, retreats, and youth gatherings such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Attendance will be limited to a maximum of 100 guests, with an average closer to 50 attendees.

Concerns about lighting or traffic should be minimal. Many of Chesapeake's major roadways, including Elbow Road, Mt. Pleasant Road, and Centerville Turnpike, are two-lane roads that safely accommodate significant traffic volumes alongside residential and agricultural properties—including school buses, farm equipment and construction vehicles.

Chesapeake must continue to encourage and support agribusiness within our city, especially as neighboring communities like Virginia Beach actively welcome these enterprises. The Dwellings Farms property is conveniently located off Route 168 and Galbush Road, and the owners are committed to maintaining its natural habitat, unpaved roads, and farm animals.

We respectfully urge Council to approve this Conditional Use Permit to support a hardworking farm family, preserve open farmland, and provide another valued venue for the many citizens, organizations, and businesses that make Chesapeake thrive.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and continued support of Chesapeake's agribusiness community.

Warmest regards,

David

David K. Ropp, Chairman
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