



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DANIEL CASTLE, AICP
COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2021

The Honorable April N.M. Baskin
Chair, Erie County Legislature
Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Chairperson Baskin:

As you know the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) is an important advisory body whose purpose is to advise the Erie County Legislature on agricultural matters.

In accordance with New York State Agricultural and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 302, members of the AFPB are to be appointed by the Chairperson of the County Legislative Body.

The Board kindly asks the Chairperson to appoint Bryant Zilke and Leonard Janiga to the Erie County AFPB. Please see the attached cover letters and resumes of Mr. Zilke and Janiga.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Castle".

DANIEL CASTLE, AICP
COMMISSIONER

DC/seg
Enclosures (4)

Cc: Mark Rountree
Sarah Gatti

Ms. Sarah Gatti
Senior Planner
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Sarah,

I am requesting reappointment to the Erie County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board.

I am a lifelong farmer in Erie County for the last 54 years, and along with my wife Mabel we raised nine children. We started with a dairy farm and now do cash crops and beef on approximately 700 acres in the Town of Marilla. Of those acres, we own 300 acre and 230 are protected by the PACE program. We grow wheat, soybeans, corn, hay, processing peas, snap beans, pumpkins, and sweet corn. I am joined by one son working in the business.

I have served in many farm organizations such as Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, the Marilla Conservation Advisory Board, and currently as a member of the Town of Marilla Zoning Board of Appeals.

I feel I have been an excellent member of this Board as I have firsthand knowledge of protecting farmland in an urban county, like Erie County. I am still active at preserving farmland for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Leonard Janiga

Leonard Janiga
11121 Jamison Road
East Aurora, NY 14052

Objective: Reappointment to the Erie County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Experience:	Erie County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board <i>Member</i>	2017 - 2021
	Erie County Farm Bureau <i>Chair, President, Vice-President</i>	1998-2010
	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County <i>Board of Directors, Vice-President</i>	2008-2013
	Marilla Conservation Advisory Board <i>Chair, Member</i>	1996-2008
	Town of Marilla Zoning Board of Appeals <i>Chair, Member</i>	2010-Present

1330 Bullis Road
Elma, New York 14059
October 22, 2021

Ms. Sarah Gatti
Senior Planner
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
95 Franklin Street, Room 1008
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Sarah:

Please accept the enclosed resume in support of my application to continue as a member of the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. I have enjoyed my membership and believe I have contributed in a positive way as a member of this Board.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by telephone at (716) 655-4821.

Sincerely,

Bryant E. Zilke

Bryant E. Zilke
1330 Bullis Road
Elma, New York 14059

Objective: Position on Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Experience: Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
Member (2010 - Present)
Vice-Chair (2018-present)

Erie County Farm Bureau
Past President and Vice President
Board of Directors as Chair of Promotion and Education (2004 - Present)

Elma Conservation Board
Chair, Land Conservation Easement Program (2007 - Present)

Zilke's Forever Grassland Farm
Owner/Operator: Diversified direct marketing livestock/dairy farm
on 93 acres set aside in perpetual conservation easement in
Grassland Reserve Program through USDA/NRCS.

Self-employed CPA Consulting Practice
Work with Agricultural and Nonprofit Entities

Education: Master of Business Administration – Accounting
Bachelor of Science – Business Administration Magna cum laude
Accelerated 3/2 Program
SUNY at Buffalo

Other Activities: President-Faith Lutheran Church, Elma, NY