

**MD Senate Bill 928 Written Testimony**  
**Stephan Levitsky, Vice President of Sustainability at Perdue Farms**

Perdue is in opposition to this bill and urges an unfavorable committee report. Perdue's reasoning is outlined below.

1. **“On or after October 1, 2021, the Department may not approve coverage under a CAFO discharge permit for a CAFO described in Subsection B of this section unless the permit applicant submits to the department, as part of the permit application, a plan to transport all of the manure produced by the CAFO” (Page 2, Lines 16-20)** – The current Phosphorus Management Tool was put in place to address this issue. Forcing a farmer to submit a plan, remove usable poultry litter from their farm and that county if their farm does not exceed 150 FIV harms the farmer and the value of their farm. If the farm does have FIV values above 150 then they would need to follow the PMT regulations and send the poultry litter to another farm or an organics recycling facility. This bill would just add unnecessary cost and time the farmer would need to devote to filling out paperwork to address something that already has a law to address.
2. **“Incorporate the terms of a manure transport plan submitted under subsection C of this section into the CAFO discharge permit for the CAFO described in subsection B of this section.” (Page 2, Lines 26-28)** – Farmers need the latitude to change where and when they take their poultry litter to other farms or organic recycling facilities. Depending on the time of year, what farms are available to place litter, etc. the farmer cannot predict years out from the time they obtain their CAFO permit where they may take their litter. This would either put them in a situation where they could not meet the manure transport plan submitted, or be required to constantly update the plan every time they clean out their houses.

This bill is duplicative, will cause financial harm to farms in the counties that have greater than 30% soils with FIV over 150, and add paperwork that would need to be changed repetitively or the farmer would be in violation of the law. The bill is harmful to farmers on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.