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Date: February 1, 2021  
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee  
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director  
Re: HB 455– Agriculture – Agriculture – Processing of Poultry Litter for Alternative Use -  
**UNFAVORABLE**

Delmarva Chicken Association (formerly Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.), the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware strongly opposes HB 455 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

HB 455 would define for the first time what is considered an alternative use for poultry litter, other than direct land application as a fertilizer. The processing of poultry litter to be an alternative use would have to meet very specific requirements.

The chicken community is extremely supportive of any and all types of alternative uses for poultry litter – from litter to energy, pelletizing litter or creating alternative fertilizers while capturing phosphorous. However, at this time, there is no one viable technology or alternative use on the market, and we believe this bill would be so prescriptive in defining an alternative use, it will actually minimize the new technologies that might come to market. This would have a negative impact on the demand for litter beyond for field application and an unintended consequence to chicken growers who often benefit from selling this value-added product. There should be no exclusive definition of alternative use for processing poultry litter.

DCA understands that the bill sponsor is open to amendments and we look forward to working with him and his constituents to better understand for the need for the bill at all.

But as it is written now, we urge an **unfavorable** vote on HB 455.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [porter@dcachicken.com](mailto:porter@dcachicken.com) or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.