



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**To:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE: Support of SB808 - Anaerobic Digestion Technology - Coordination and Guidance**

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of SB808 Anaerobic Digestion Technology - Coordination and Guidance. This bill would require the Department of Agriculture to coordinate with certain 4 State agencies and other stakeholders to ensure anaerobic digestion technology 5 projects are not unduly delayed and establish certain guidance for farmers regarding the 7 development and implementation of anaerobic digestion technology.

SB808 demonstrates a thoughtful approach by requiring the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with various stakeholders, including the Maryland Energy Administration, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Commerce, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, electric companies, farmers, and industry. This coordinated effort ensures a comprehensive perspective and a more effective implementation of anaerobic digestion technology projects.

The provision for establishing guidance for farmers is commendable. By working in conjunction with relevant state agencies, the Department of Agriculture can provide essential information to farmers regarding the development and implementation of anaerobic digestion technology. This includes details on obtaining necessary permits, understanding electric interconnection, and accessing tax incentives and energy rebates. Moreover, the guidance covers pertinent regulations for waste systems, incorporating animal waste and other resources like food waste, thereby promoting environmentally conscious farming practices.

The emphasis on preventing undue delays in anaerobic digestion technology projects is crucial. Timely implementation is not only beneficial for farmers



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looking to adopt these technologies but also contributes to the overall success of sustainable initiatives, aligning with the state's commitment to environmental stewardship.

SB808's consideration of waste systems that incorporate animal waste and other resources, such as Dissolved Air Flotation residuals (DAF), reflects a forward-thinking approach to sustainable agriculture. This aligns with the broader global movement towards circular economies and responsible resource management.

### **Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB808 and urges a Favorable Report**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Hough". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, (443) 878-4045 with any questions*