



## Carroll County Government

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March 4, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB1074 – Environment – Industrial Sludge Utilization Permit – Establishment – FWA**

Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of Carroll County in strong support of *HB991 – Environment – Industrial Sludge Utilization Permit – Establishment*, as amended. The bill, with the amended title *Agriculture – Food Processing Residuals Utilization Permit – Establishment*, will establish regulations regarding the transport, storage, and use of food processing by-product to address what we believe is an irresponsible overapplication of the material to agricultural fields in our county. We are approached by constituents complaining of the intense, lingering foul odor emanating from the fields and the subsequent attracting of insects that remain for extended periods of time due to the method, frequency, and amount of deposited material.

Agriculture is a critically important industry in Carroll County, and we are a proud agricultural community. Our citizens understand and appreciate our rich agricultural heritage and support responsible agricultural practices. However, this inadequately regulated practice is negatively impacting the quality of life for some of our citizens. Our research indicates that this activity is not highly controlled which led to a few opportunists taking advantage of the absence of effective regulation of a material that can be a productive soil amendment when properly regulated. The creation of a permit process and inspection regime that effectively regulates the transport, storage, and use of this material is necessary and will help address what we believe to be the irresponsible practices conducted in our county.

For these reasons the County respectfully requests a favorable report on SB1074 as amended.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Fowler  
Legislative Liaison