

FI wish to express what I hope is a convincing argument to the Senate for passage of SB 1074.

Americans are freedom-loving people. The freedom to express our opinions and beliefs to our Senators gives us the power to really live the kind of life we want.

Marylanders love this state because of many of the following: clean water and air, woodlands, open lands for farming, and the waters of the creeks, rivers and especially our beloved Chesapeake Bay. Threats to those areas are threats to those of us who live and are employed here. One such group consists of people who own, train, compete with and just ride horses. Equine-related jobs have provided thousands of individuals with a lifetime occupation.

The shock that we are being confronted with is the growing presence of DAF Sludge plants appearing quietly in various locations in the state. Tragically, the placements of these apparently unregulated sites are in formerly quiet and peaceful countryside, with attempts to keep them from being seen by the public.

Their connection to the equestrian community is this. With enough of these DAF sites arriving in the areas where there are farms, barns with large pastures, woods trails and open fields, stables, equine establishments with arenas, cross-country jumps, etc. for competitions, the equestrians who are impacted by sickening smells, polluted water, and toxins leaching into the ground water, etc., will seek ways to leave the state. So will the large numbers of tourists who flock into the state to watch and participate in events, demonstrations, trail riding, camping, parades and training. Also leaving will be equine breeders, trainers, equine supply stores, boarding barns, large hay growers, farriers, feed stores, and hundreds of other equine jobs – totaling into the thousands of formerly employed people.

Equines and the people associated with them, and DAF sites, cannot co-exist in proximity to each other. Every one of these individuals leaving Maryland will have been a tax-payer to the state, and over time, the financial loss to Maryland will be significant.

PASS SB1074

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