

March 4, 2024

Re: Testimony in support of SB1074

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members the Energy, Environment and Education Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1074. I am Meghan Duncan, residing at 22719 Squire Land in Queen Anne, MD. I grew up on my Grandfather's black angus farm in what is now the northern portion of the Agricultural Reserve bordering the Frederick County line along Interstate 270. My husband and I retired to the Mid Shore 7 years ago, leaving our home we built in 1997 on what remained of our family farm to escape the sprawling overdevelopment of Clarksburg and Urbana. We were so happy to find ourselves back in a farming lifestyle until recently when we found out that Caroline County, and much of the Eastern Shore, has become a dumping ground for industrial sludge of unknown origins, often from out of state, that escapes regulation by its classification as a "Soil Amendment."

DAF materials and biosolids are Industrial Sludge and need to be classified as such to prevent loopholes being exploited in calling these "Soil Amendments."

Industrial Sludge/ DAF is a loose definition far too broad to protect our residents from the dangers posed to our health from chemical coagulants and flocculants, heavy metals, PFAs, PFOAs and other chemicals too numerous and expensive to routinely test for. No one knows exactly what is in every tanker truck, many of which are from out of state, and without testing and controls on every load these dangerous substances will end up in the food chain, our wells, and harm the wildlife, native and migrating birds, as well as we humans and our pets who are exposed to contaminated waters, soils, and air as farming operations produce a lot of dust carrying unknown hazards for miles.

Additionally, human wastewater treatment plant biosolid sewage sludge is entering our food chain by being spread on farm fields which produce crops for poultry, livestock, and human consumption. In Texas, Maine, and Michigan livestock are testing with such high levels of PFAs that beef and dairy herds are being seized and destroyed, the meat and milk deemed unsafe for sale, and the crops grown in, and nearby to, fields where Wastewater Treatment Sewage Sludge has been spread that were fed to the cattle tested so high the farmers were told to buy grain and not let their livestock graze on their lands. PFAs are now known as "Forever Chemicals" so farmers are losing their livelihoods as a result of allowing Biosolid WWTP Sewage to be disposed of as a Soil Amendment.

*The U.S. EPA's Inspector General (U.S. EPA 2000) found that, while EPA promotes land application, EPA cannot assure the public that current land application practices are protective of human health and the environment. **Land Application of Treated Sewage Sludge: Community Health and Environmental Justice*** Amy Lowman,<sup>1</sup> Mary Anne McDonald,<sup>2</sup> Steve Wing,<sup>1</sup> and Naema Muhammad<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Community and Family Medicine, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA; <sup>3</sup>Concerned Citizens of Tillery, Tillery, North Carolina, USA

Nowhere in SB 1074 or HB 991 are PFA's or Biosolid Wastewater Sewage Sludge specifically mentioned and I implore you to amend them to permanently and totally ban this specific type of Industrial Sludge from being spread on Maryland lands, or from being brought in from other states for storage or spreading of any kind.

Maryland's lax regulations also lead to reckless tanker truck drivers from outside Caroline County and outside the state of Maryland who act with impunity in blatant violation of Caroline County DAF Moratoria currently in effect, bringing loads from out of County and out of State. Tankers running at all hours of the night and day are a menace on these small county roads to us all, school buses picking up and dropping off children, bicyclists, horse riders and dog walkers. Tanker trucks degrade our infrastructure in their size and weight, costing taxpayer dollars to repair roads and bridges.

I support this legislation because currently not enough is being done to protect Maryland residents from a deluge of Industrial Sludge being brought here from other states who recognize the need for strict regulations and then being stored in unpermitted tanks, lagoons and pits, and/or spread directly on our lands. I see this legislation as a stop-gap measure to curtail and regulate Industrial Sludge/ DAF/ and reclass its use as Not a Soil Amendment until more studies

are done on the harm that could devastate our lands, waters and air and in so doing destroy our quality of life, health and safety.

In closing I ask that the committee vote favorably for SB 1074 and bring amendments forth to totally ban the spreading and storage of Wastewater Treatment Plant Sewage Sludge by the sponsors.

Sincerely,

Alan & Meghan Duncan

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