

**To: The Honorable Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee**

From: Bioenergy Devco

**Subject: House Bill 1404, Environment – Storage of Dissolved Air Flotation
By-Products – Local Authority**

Date: March 8, 2024

Position: Favorable

Bioenergy Devco supports House Bill 1404, Environment – Storage of Dissolved Air Flotation By-Products – Local Authority

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), an international leader in anaerobic digestion solutions with over 24 years of experience. BDC’s exceptional team of engineers, microbial experts, biologists, chemists, agronomists, construction designers and facility managers are dedicated to delivering an environmentally sound solution that creates a true source of renewable, carbon-negative energy as well as a high nutrient soil amendment.

House Bill 1404 allows a political subdivision to enact a local law or ordinance regarding the storage of dissolved air flotation by-products that is equal to or more stringent than the permit requirements for a sewage sludge utilization permit.

BDC would like to thank the committee members who recently visited our organic recycling facility during the last interim. Our facility in Jessup processes approximately 130 tons of organic waste annually including dissolved air flotation (DAF) material. Recent changes to the Maryland land application regulations further restrict application of DAF material. This will increase Maryland’s environmental gains in agriculture.

House Bill 1404 has the capacity to address the social impacts of storing DAF material while it is awaiting final processing through new technologies and eventual land application. In 2023, the University of Maryland released its final report on the Maryland Animal Waste Assessment and Strategy Plan. This Plan was created to guide future Animal Waste Technology Fund (AWTF) awards administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The stated goal of the AWTF is “to encourage the development and implementation of economically feasible technologies that help protect public health and the environment by reducing the amount of nutrients from

animal waste to enable farmers to meet nutrient management requirements and provide alternative animal waste management strategies to farmers.”

The report found reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from implementing waste technologies such as anaerobic digestion. This reduced more than 100% of the GHG emissions from manure storage with renewable energy production, resulting in negative (sequestering). However, the study found barriers to adoption due to high capital costs, long lead times, limited subsidies, complex regulations, lack of technical expertise (to permit, operate, and troubleshoot), and social resistance (often due to lack of education). The report also cited the benefits of baseline methane emission reductions from manure storage and the non-intermittent renewable energy production that increases grid stability when employing anaerobic digestion are not internalized in Maryland’s current policies.

The use of these new technologies and better information on GHG emissions from land application is needed to accurately calculate reductions in GHG emissions that would occur if more animal waste technologies were employed to reduce the large movement of manure and DAF throughout the state.

For these reasons, BDC respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1404.

Please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992, if you have any questions.