

Testimony in Support of SB732

Senate Energy, Education, and Environment Committee February 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm
Submitted on the 14th day of February at 12:00 pm.

To Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

My name is John Thacker. I own a home on Island Creek, a tributary of the Choptank River in Talbot County, and I urge a favorable report on SB732.

SB732, Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Concentration Limits Bill, will serve to restrict the application of sewage sludge (Bio-Solids) containing excess PFAS to farmland as fertilizer, and thereby lessen the load of PFAS into Maryland's groundwater, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

I **support** this bill because my home is in the critical area on Island Creek, with numerous farm fields in immediate proximity. My well water is drawn from a 200-foot deep groundwater well, and I fish and crab in Island Creek. Without the appropriate restrictions contemplated by this bill, there would remain a risk that the ground water and tidal waters will become increasingly contaminated with PFAS, adversely impacting my family's and my neighbors' health. SB732 smartly addresses these concerns without overburdening agricultural interests.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully ask this committee to give SB732 a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,
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