



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 19, 2020

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Opposition of SB928 - Environment – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Construction or Expansion – Manure Transport Plan Requirement

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 928. Starting on or after October 1, 2021, this bill would prohibit the Department of the Environment from approving coverage under a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) discharge permit for new a CAFO in counties with more than 30% of their farmland having a soil phosphorus FIV of 150 or greater, unless the permit applicant submits a manure transport plan to the Department as part of the permit application that shows the manure generated will be transported to a county with less than 30% of the farmland above 150 phosphorus FIV or to an organics recycling facility. The counties with more than 30% of their farmland being over 150 phosphorus FIV are Calvert, Caroline, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

We have many members in counties like Caroline County that their entire farm is below the 150 Phosphorus FIV level. However, since this bill is a one-size fits all bill and lumps all farms in these counties into an inability to use the litter on their farm, these farms that are below the FIV restriction are required to find a different location for their litter which could prevent them from not being able to get into the poultry industry because of the county they live in, not because their soil.

This bill is too restrictive and isn't needed as Maryland Department of Agriculture's current nutrient management program addresses the requirement of moving the litter to areas where the Phosphorus FIV levels are low enough to accept litter.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 928

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396