



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 928

Environment-Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Construction or Expansion
Manure Transport Plan Requirement

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment, Health and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 19, 2020

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) SUPPORTS SB 928. This bill would require certain new or expanding concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) to provide where they plan to transport their manure prior to receiving their CAFO permit.

This legislation requires start-up and expanding CAFOs in counties where more than 30% of the acreage tested has a phosphorus fertility index value of 150 or more to provide a plan for manure transport prior to receiving a permit. According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture soils data collection and verification dated January 2019, there are five counties that meet this threshold: Somerset (64%), Wicomico (53%), Worcester (60%), Caroline (34%), and Calvert (33%). SB 928 will require new or expanding CAFOs in these counties to have a reasonable plan on where they can apply manure and have a general understanding that it may require transporting manure outside of their home county.

CBF has supported implementation of the phosphorus management tool (PMT) and progress is being made in ceasing phosphorus application on fields with saturated soils. However, adding new CAFOs to areas where there is already a soil phosphorus saturation problem is counterproductive, especially as the State is still in the process of developing manure transport volumes and logistics to manage the current amount of excess.

For these reasons, CBF SUPPORTS SB 928 and urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report. For more information, please contact Rob Schnabel, Restoration Scientist, 410.268.8816

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.