

**Bill HB1312** Water Pollution Control - Discharge Permits - Industrial Poultry Operations

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stewart

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation=

**Person Submitting:** Monica Brooks

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

My name is Monica Brooks. I'm here as a mom, grand mom and and Eastern Shore resident in support of House **Bill 1312**. Over the last few years I have testified about high respiratory disease rates on the shore, and I have testified regarding the health problems that my family, particularly my daughter has experienced. I shared with this committee that she's been prescribed an inhaler and diagnosed with asthma although asthma does not run in our family. And how my vibrant daughter has had multiple trips to the ER because she could not breathe. In Wicomico county where we live, 1 in 4 Middle School children have asthma! Do you know what it's like to see your child helpless and struggling to breathe? Gasping for breath and looking to you to alleviate the suffering. My granddaughter is also a victim suffering from asthma. We have a problem in the air.

The Eastern Shore is being flooded by large concentrated animal feeding operations known as CAFO's. These operations each have 18 industrial fans releasing toxins into our air for our children to breathe. Each one of these monstrosities produces tons of manure and ammonia, a sticky gas clinging to all it touches including our lungs. CAFOs are being placed dangerously close to neighborhoods and schools. One such 4 house CAFO was placed right across from the playground of my daughter's school! My protests went unheard. I was labeled anti-poultry and anti-farming! I am not anti-poultry or farming.

Families of the Eastern Shore need your help to obtain protection and justice for all. I'm here as a voice for the thousands of cries that have fallen on the deaf ears of our locally elected officials. Why so much opposition I ask to regulating polluters? Is industry more important than people? Excess manure is a problem and the more factory farms there are, the more opportunities there are to make our air more toxic than it already is. As a concerned citizen and Mother of the Eastern Shore, I am asking that

you show your support for the citizens of the region and not just an industry by passing a favorable vote for House Bill 1312.

Thank you

Monica Brooks