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February 22, 2021

The Hon. Paul Pinky, Chairman
The Hon. Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chairman
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony Urging Withdrawal of SB 585
Submitted by Dr. Kristi Shaw, CleanBay Renewables

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask that Senate Bill 585 creating a new subtitle in the Maryland Agriculture Article to require processing of poultry litter for a certain alternative use be respectfully withdrawn. I appreciate your support for those of us in Maryland who are working to find alternative uses for poultry litter that provide environmental benefits and create a sustainable fertilizer product. However, after careful consideration and interpretation of SB 585 and its fiscal and policy note, we ask that the bill be withdrawn. This legislation is unnecessary and could even hamstring the success of local businesses that are approved for alternative uses.

I am the Director of Environmental and Regulatory Compliance at CleanBay Renewables, a resource recovery company bringing environmental, economic and energy generation benefits to our state and the region. I am a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore and the fifth generation of a Dorchester County farming family. Protecting the environment and our agricultural industry are both very important to me. I hold multiple degrees, including a doctorate, from Maryland institutions in environmental science and public health. I intimately understand the challenges that our community and environment are facing as we race to meet our needs for both food and energy independence.

CleanBay Renewables is a Maryland company created to recycle poultry litter, so we are grateful for your ongoing validation of alternative uses. The bill language in SB 585 is overly prescriptive and will leave out many existing as well as new technologies that could help recycle litter. We don't believe this legislation to codify a definition of alternative use for one specific type of alternative use process is appropriate. We are actively trying to improve our environment by repurposing litter and also by improving the quality of our air, soil and water. We are doing this without needing legislation that creates a definition of our work or technology process.



Farmers across the U.S. need an economical way to recycle agricultural waste, while also improving soil health for improved harvest production. Communities need the economic boost of new, sustainable industries, particularly in the rural counties of Maryland. Utilizing agricultural by-products as feedstock for renewable energy meets the critical U.S. demand for energy independence. We are proud to be harnessing science, technology and economics to tilt the balance back in favor of nature, while protecting the agricultural sector that provides a vital service to us all.

Through our anaerobic digestion and nutrient recovery technologies, CleanBay recycles chicken litter to create renewable energy at utility scale. Our process helps to significantly remove and stabilize elements like phosphorous and nitrogen from the litter which lead to algal blooms that pollute our waterways and create dead zones.

The benefits of our process are quantifiable. CleanBay has calculated the amount of carbon that is sequestered by taking 150,000 tons of poultry litter into our closed loop anaerobic digestors rather than sitting open in the atmosphere. It is important from an environmental and also business perspective to measure avoided greenhouse gases and air pollution in addition to having health and ecosystem benefits. Each CleanBay facility, by recycling chicken litter waste, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 550,000 tons annually, equivalent to taking 107,795 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

We look forward to working with you to be certain that the agriculture, environmental and business communities are heard and considered in upcoming legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this request to withdraw SB 585.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristi Shaw
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