

To: Environment and Transportation Committee
From: Bioenergy Devco
Subject: House Bill 307, Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility
Date: February 2, 2022
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Bioenergy Devco supports with amendments House Bill 307, Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility.

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), the foremost providers of anaerobic digester solutions and is a pioneer in this sector. The core expertise of our company lies in planning, producing and constructing the plants. For over 20 years and more than 250 biogas plants, our qualified team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers and marketing experts has significant experience in the design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support.

This bill requires the Department of Environment to conduct a statewide recycling needs assessment every 10 years. Further, by April 1, 2024, producers of packaging materials to individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization submit a producer responsibility plan to the Department for approval. The bill also prohibits, on or after October 1, 2024, a producer of packaging materials from selling or distributing the packaging materials unless the producer has an approved producer responsibility plan.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an important measure for managing and reducing the amount of consumer waste. The notion behind EPR is make product manufacturers and distributors responsible for their products and packaging at the end of life. This responsibility is intended to provide incentives for industry to prevent waste at the source, promote more circular design and establish public-private partnerships to help address waste program challenges.

Bioenergy Devco fully supports the intent of the legislation. In 2019, the General Assembly passed House Bill 510 which defines “organics recycling” as processes in which organic material are collected, separated or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. Composting and anaerobic digestion are included in this definition. As indicated in the attachment, we request that the bill strike “compost” and “composting” where indicated in favor of a broader term, “organics recycling” as defined in Section 9-1701(n)(1) of the Environment Article. This will ensure that broader range of recycling methods are covered under the law and



that the benefits of each of these recycling methods is increased through improved communication and coordination with producers.

For these reasons, Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments on House Bill 307.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992