



726 Second Street, Suite 3B  
Annapolis, MD 21403  
info@cleanbayrenewables.com  
410.514.6488

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Chairman Kumar P. Barve  
The Honorable Vice Chair Dana Stein  
Maryland General Assembly House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 847 – Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup

Dear Chairman Barve and Vice Chair Stein:

I am writing in favor of House Bill 847. The proposed bill would establish an anaerobic digestion workgroup to study, identify, examine, and make recommendations on certain aspects of anaerobic digestion. We at CleanBay Renewables enthusiastically support this initiative. We are confident that the efforts of this workgroup will help dispel common misconceptions surrounding anaerobic digestion and empower more informed policy decisions in the future. Anaerobic digestion is a key tool to further enhance the sustainability efforts underway by our farmers.

CleanBay Renewables is an enviro-tech company founded in 2013 focused on the sustainable management of agricultural byproducts using combined anaerobic digestion and nutrient recovery technologies. Our unique process transforms chicken litter from local farms into biomethane which can then be injected into a pipeline to heat homes, converted into green hydrogen, or used to power electric vehicles. We then use nutrient-recovery technology to convert the leftover solid digestate into natural, controlled-release fertilizer granules. The controlled-release technology gives farmers a nutrient-rich alternative to synthetic fertilizer and raw manure without inundating the soil with excessive nutrients, ultimately improving the health of local soil, air, and water.

There are many benefits of biomass anaerobic digestion, and CleanBay's closed-loop process is clean from start to finish. Each of CleanBay's utility-scale facilities will safely recycle more than 150,000 tons of poultry litter each year, offering a sustainable byproduct management solution for the agricultural community. These zero-water discharge facilities create several sustainable products and recycle 100% of the water used in the process. Our anaerobic digestion and nutrient recovery technology is a complete solution to address existing agricultural byproducts with no residual waste and no incineration required.

Legislation has been proposed to exclude energy derived from the anaerobic digestion of certain biomass, including poultry litter, from participating in market-based incentive programs like the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. This exclusion is fueled by a fundamental misunderstanding of how anaerobic digestion works. Lawmakers must be presented with credible, unbiased information regarding the anaerobic digestion process, current regulations, and potential uses for the digestate it produces.

This workgroup can help dispel the misunderstandings about the merits of this tried-and-true technology, and can serve to better inform lawmakers working to support alternative uses for organic waste streams. Certain pending legislation in





Maryland threatens the development and expansion of anaerobic digestion facilities and may cause the State to miss out on a viable method of clean energy generation. Establishing an anaerobic digestion workgroup will unite industry experts and government leaders and allow them to disseminate the most up-to-date information on anaerobic digestion technology.

Maryland has the opportunity to maintain competitiveness with other states such as California, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington that have long included anaerobic digestion of animal manures and other biomass as an important part of their renewable energy strategies. CleanBay Renewables champions this initiative and fully supports HB 847 as introduced.

Sincerely,

Thomas Spangler  
Executive Chairman, CleanBay Renewables