



February 27, 2023

**HOUSE ENVIRONMENT and TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HB 847 – Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup**

Statement in Support

Planet Found Energy Development LLC (“PFED”) **SUPPORTS** the provisions contained in HB 847, which will establish an Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup to study, identify, examine and make recommendations on certain aspects of anaerobic digestion and requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 30, 2023.

HB 847 will support Planet Found Energy Development LLC. PFED is a Maryland-based entity formed by scientists, farmers, and businesspeople (in cooperation with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and University of Maryland College Park) dedicated to developing poultry litter management technologies that will safeguard the environment, economic viability, employment opportunities, and the long-term stability and integrity of agricultural communities in the Chesapeake Bay Region and beyond.

Located in Worcester County and in operation since 2017, PFED operates a farm-scale anaerobic digestion and nutrient capture system that converts digestate, a natural byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process, into a nutrient-rich soil conditioner. PFED distributes this digestate to bulk and retail markets under the brand Element Soil.

In addition to its nutrient capture system, PFED’s farm-scale anaerobic digestion system and technology biologically produces biogas from 1,200 tons of poultry litter from Millennium Farm annually, which rather than being released into the atmosphere can generate renewable energy in the form of electricity or be upgraded to renewable natural gas.

PFED spent several years researching and developing the technology to produce methane from poultry litter. The waste has been difficult to successfully digest, with only a few poultry litter anaerobic digesters operating in the United States.

On behalf of PFED, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 847.