

Michael D. Elzey

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5188 Aireys Rd

Cambridge, Md 21613

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in favor of HB 991. I live next to a farm in Dorchester County that has been spreading the DAF on their fields for approximately 5 years. The farm has roughly 244 tillable acres. The previous owners did not use DAF, they used pelletized fertilizer. They typically took one to two weeks to harvest, plow, plant and fertilize the entire farm. The current owner, using DAF, spends 4-8 weeks just spreading the product before planting. Diesel trucks haul tanks, owned by Denali, full of DAF on to the farm 24 hours a day. Hundreds of deliveries. It appears that they spend twice as much time spreading DAF than farming (planting & harvesting food products). It's amazing to me that they are paying a dozens of truck drivers to deliver the product, burning thousands of gallons of diesel fuel. The 24 hour a day, 7 days a week delivery causes a tremendous amount of heavy traffic in an otherwise very quiet, predominantly black rural community. I feel like they are not farming. They are using the farm as a "dumping ground" for DAF. They keep temporary holding tanks on the farm to store the DAF. They are allowed to apply DAF two times a year. Once in spring and once in fall!

Summary - Impact:

Heavy traffic to a small community for 4-8 weeks, 24 hours a day. Two times each year (spring & fall).

The worst imaginable smell for weeks on end.

Noise and air pollution from the truck, the tractors and the pump engines on the tanks.

Water pollution via run off from the fields. You can see if draining off the ditches.

Overwhelming out breaks of flies for weeks on end. The community can't enjoy time relaxing outdoors.

In my opinion the more DAF that is allowed to be brought into Maryland and applied to fields in Maryland the more Maryland resident's lives will be negatively impacted. The product should have regulations on the amount coming into the state, there should be constant soil testing to assure that applications are not exceeding the legal limits per acre, there should be strict limits placed on the storage and it should be banned from being applied within a 1 mile radius of residential housing.

Please keep my name confidential as I have been threatened by representatives of the farm.

Sincerely,

Michael Elzey

