

March 25, 2025

As a member of Tuckahoe Equestrian Center and user of the State Park, I submit this testimony in favor (FAV) of SB1074/HB991.

I believe in the farmer's right to farm in Maryland, but this is hazardous waste storage and dumping is not farming. We care deeply about our land, our water, our waterways, and our community's quality of life that we also enjoy at Tuckahoe State Park. This legislation attempts to impose reasonable regulations on the storage and dumping of this industrial sludge. I am concerned about contamination and degradation of our surface water, our creeks and streams and ponds, as well as our groundwater. If this stuff is so beneficial for the crops grown on our farmland, and, if it is safe for our groundwater and surface water, why are these waste generators paying "farmers" to store and dump it? Why are these processors paying big bucks to have the stuff hauled hundreds of miles away from the plants that produce it? Why aren't the farmers and landowners near these factories clamoring to spread the stuff on their own land? Why is it necessary for our state to be the dumping ground for this hazardous material?

There is also a serious quality of life issue which matters in our community. The awful stench when this stuff is hauled past our homes, when it's dumped and spread, seriously affects our neighborhood.

It is surely unhealthy for humans and animals when this unrelenting, overpowering smell hangs over our neighborhood for weeks at a time.

And our community is seriously affected by the volume of traffic from these huge tank trucks.

We need SB1074/HB991 to become Maryland law to help protect our state's citizens, our water, and our land from the practice of dumping this material under the guise of "nutrient management."

Please pass SB1074/HB991 to begin regulating the hauling, storage and dumping of this industrial sludge.

Al Martinez  
President  
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center