

Testimony before the
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 28, 2024

House Bill 991
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee:

The organizations and individuals listed below respectfully request a favorable report on HB 991, which prohibits a person from utilizing industrial sludge in the State without a permit. The permit program proposed in the bill addresses deficiencies in the State’s approach to industrial sludge management that prevents the content of sludge from being well understood, encourages overapplication of sludge to land, and potentially violates federal and State law.

Maryland has become a dumping ground for Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) material, the sludge that’s left over from industrial protein rendering. While often used as an agricultural soil amendment, overapplication to land and poorly controlled storage and handling of DAF subjects nearby farmers and residents to unbearable odors, insects, human health impacts, and the threat of polluted runoff reaching our waterways.

While Delaware and Virginia require a permit to utilize industrial sludge, Maryland does not. As a result, Maryland has become a profitable place for the material to go—and it’s more than we can handle. As much as half of the region’s industrial sludge has been spread on Maryland land in recent years, according to a University of Maryland study.

The permitting program established by HB 991 puts Maryland on par with neighboring states that administer similar programs and closes a significant loophole that allows Maryland waters and communities to be harmed.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 991.

Sincerely,

Marisa Olszewski
Maryland LCV

Taylor Swanson
Assateague Coastal Trust

Anna Mudd
Potomac Conservancy

Liz Lamb
The 6th Branch

Robin Broder
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Fred C. Pomeroy
Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth

Randy Lyon
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter.

Theresa Cullen
Alice Ferguson Foundation

Jay Falstad
Queen Anne's Conservation Association

David Lillard
Catoctin Land Trust

Lydia Lawrence
Nature Forward

Tom Taylor
Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Paulette Hammond
Maryland Conservation Council

Elle Bassett
Arundel Rivers Federation

Phil Webster
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of
Maryland

Caroline Taylo
Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Dave Arndt
MD Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Virginia Smith
Indivisible HoCOMD

Alice Volpitta
Blue Water Baltimore

Madeleine Beller
Baltimore City, MD

Susan Beller
Silver Spring, MD

Jack Darrell
Baltimore City, MD

Isabella Bruno

Jason Green
Westminster, MD

Lauren Oconnell
Baltimore, MD

Kathi Green

Michelle Keeney
Washington, DC

Pamela Mesta
Mayberry Road, Westminster, MD

Steve Curry
Mayberry Road, Westminster, MD

Heather Semies

Donna Pope
Mt. Airy, MD

Matt Pluta
Cambridge, MD

Robert Melendez
Washington, DC

Nancy R. Thomas

Patti C. Shaffer
Greensboro, MD

Heather Macki
Hanover, MD

Stacey Wilcom
Westminster, MD

Craig Carlson
Silver Spring, MD

Bonnie Weissberg
Baltimore, MD

Brittanie Collier
Trappe, MD

Michael Zepp
New Windsor, MD

Leonard Jay Wantz
Taneytown, MD

Bill Berry
Waldorf, MD

Ruth Grant
Ridgely, Md

Kristin Cavey
Westminster, MD

Nicole Maloney

Suzanne Peters
Westminster, MD

Kelly Snyder

Susan McFadden

Lisa Wilt
Silver Run, MD

Angela McCauslin
Littlestown, MD

Todd McCauslin

Mary Naugle,
Westminster, MD

Willem Zijp
Cambridge, MD

Jon Ingersoll
Cambridge, MD

Tom Puglisi
Cambridge, MD

Margaret Ingersoll
Cambridge, MD

Richard Bearman
Cambridge, MD

Rany Cole

Janice Wyatt
Cambridge, MD

Jan Boettger
Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth

Joe Dougherty

Mark Wilson
Cambridge, MD

Kevin Diaz
Cambridge, MD

Peter A. Doyle
Cambridge, MD

Wendy Donnelly
Cambridge, MD

Robert Donnelly
Cambridge, MD

Nancy J. Chapman
Cambridge, MD

Kolya Braun-Greiner
Takoma Park, MD

James Brady
Cambridge, MD

Diane Miller
Cambridge, MD

David Stevens

Steven Van Dorpe
Cambridge MD

Stephen Rideout
Cambridge, MD

Stokes Liles
Cambridge, MD

Thomas Hannan
Cambridge, MD

James Culver
Cambridge, MD

Deborah Wessner
Columbia MD

Sue Clery
Baltimore, MD

Lani Hummel
Annapolis, MD

Cheryl Duvall

Kelly Crowe
Cambridge, MD

Paul Kaladas
Annapolis, MD

Kay Klepfer
Cambridge MD

Rick Klepfer
Cambridge MD

Milan Obradovic

Ron Hartman
Cecil County, MD

David Malone
Cambridge, MD