

February 21, 2024

RE: Testimony in Support of HB991

Dear Chairman Delegate Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The purpose of this written testimony is to request that you take the next step required to pass proposed bill HB991

As a 30 year resident of Caroline County, I feel compelled to stress the need for stricter laws pertaining to the influx of Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) residuals being trucked into Maryland from other states. I fear that Maryland has become a dumping ground for states having laws in place, like Delaware and Virginia, who require a permit to transport and spread industrial sludge. I am also aware and concerned about DAF residuals being hauled in from the state of Pennsylvania and possibly being mixed with manure.

I live in an agricultural environment and am well aware of traditional farming smells. It is very concerning that DAF residuals are being shipped from who knows where, containing who knows what and being stored in open vats and lagoons with little or no restrictions on the storage of this industrial sludge. I am concerned that we will experience the same “death like” odors, flies, gnats, water contamination that have been reported in Wicomico and Talbot Counties.

The increase in tanker trucks hauling sludge is apparent to me and all of my neighbors. They are delivering day and night over roads that are not built for this type of trucking. It is a relief to know that our county commissioners have put a temporary ban on the storage of DAF, however the trucking of sludge continues at a steady pace? What are they hauling? Please be advised that we need help from the state legislature on this matter before our quality of life and property values are destroyed.

I encourage the passage of HB991 and SB1074

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Merrill F. and Nancy R. Thomas

15075 Cherry Lane

Ridgely, MD 21660