

February 26, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of HB991

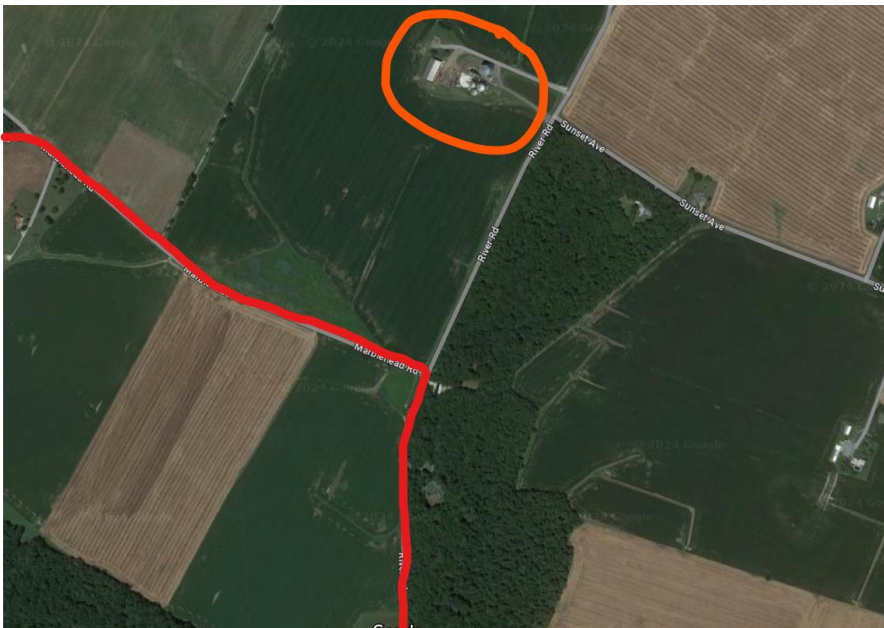
Dear Chairman Korman and Members the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB991. I am Megan Campbell, a Caroline County resident, property owner, and parent. I own a small farmette on the outskirts of Ridgely and reside in Caroline County because of its rural farmland and unspoiled nature.

I am submitting this testimony in support of my favorable position on HB991, including the amendments brought forward by the sponsors, which I have reviewed. I support this legislation because unregulated DAF storage and processing in Caroline County and on Maryland's Eastern Shore pose a significant threat to the way of life for residents. As one of those residents, as well as a property owner and parent of two young children who reside here, I hope the passing of HB991 will result in three things: first, better control over the siting of storage facilities, ideally with control at the county level so local concerns are factored into siting; second, more accountability for the haulers of this material to prevent spills and avoid problematic routes; and third, better control and regulations surrounding the land application of DAF so that it is not overused, running off, and causing odors where we live and travel.

Below, I have listed three specific examples of how DAF storage and processing are directly impacting our lives now (1 and 2) and could in the future (3). Please refer to my map images to see how close these facilities are to our lives, including along my sons' elementary school bus route.

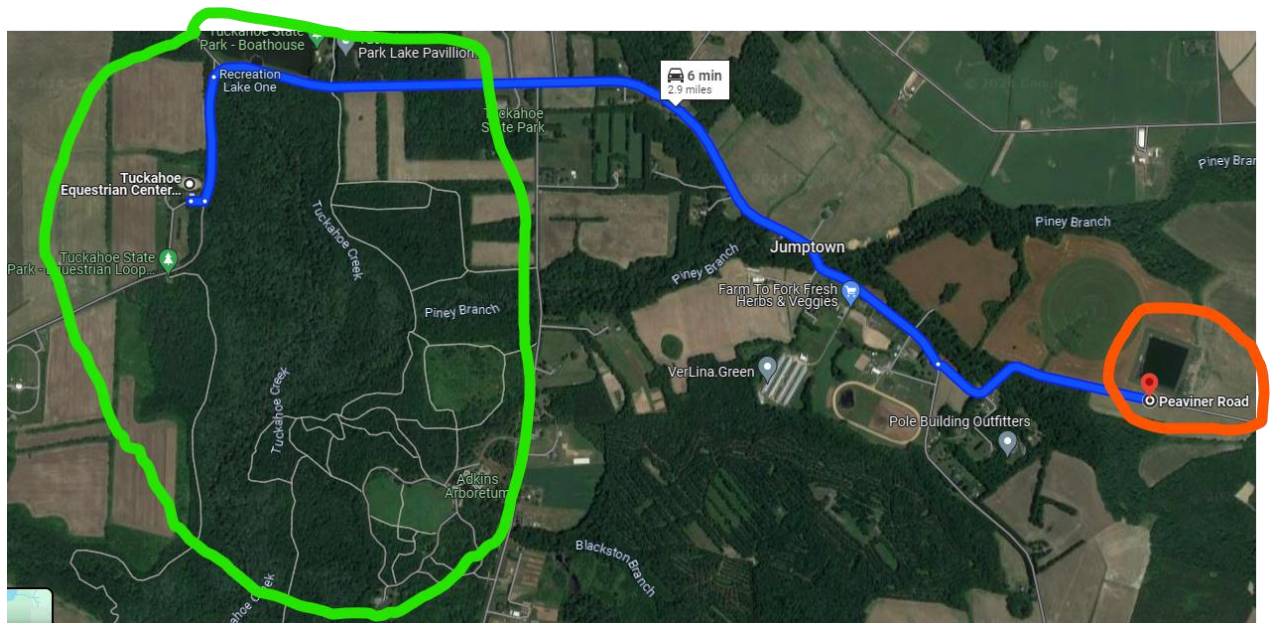
1. **Childrens' bus routes.** My 11- and 4-year-old sons ride the school bus along River Road, passing directly by the River Road DAF lagoon location. My oldest son reported that **he and his brother can smell the stench starting on Sparks Road, over 1 mile away from the site.** I do not want to risk their exposure for years to come, as they not only pass the location on their bus, but we regularly pass it to go to our local library branch as well. I have included a map image below, demonstrating their elementary bus route (red) and the DAF tank location (orange).



- Impact on the enjoyment of equestrian trails at Tuckahoe State Park.** I own three horses and intentionally purchased a farmette near Tuckahoe State Park to enjoy the equestrian trails, fishing, and canoeing with my family. The equestrian trails, equestrian park, Adkins Arboretum, and majority of Tuckahoe State Park are impacted by the Peaviner Road tank location.

Equestrian trails within the park cross the roads repeatedly and can encounter the sludge vehicle traffic as well as potential spillage, creating hazards for the horses and riders. The park is so close to the Peaviner Road DAF storage location that the smell and potential spills impact riders in almost every trail location. Please note that Tuckahoe Equestrian Center supports a massive equestrian community and draws ecotourism in the way of riders and campers from all over Maryland and neighboring states.

I have included a screenshot demonstrating the area of major equestrian trails we and many others traverse (green circle) and the Peaviner DAF lagoon (orange circle). Additional equestrian, running, and hiking trails extend well beyond the circle I have illustrated. As you can see from the map, the driving distance is approximately 1.5-2 miles from the DAF location to the forested area and roads contained in my circle, with the furthest distance only being 3 miles. The driving route is obviously longer than the distance as the crow flies, which is approximately **only 1 mile, the same distance from which my sons can smell the River Road facility inside a school bus.**



- Risk of spillage on all local public roads.** I am a runner, cyclist, and outdoor enthusiast, as are my family members. Frequently, I run along the country roads in our beautiful county or go for a bike ride with my family. Already, we see spilled trash periodically from the landfills in Ridgely. If there was spillage from sludge transport on these same roads, it would absolutely ruin our enjoyment of the beautiful local farmland and public roads, not to mention pose a threat to our

health. Please refer to the written testimony submitted by Matt Pluta on behalf of ShoreRivers for graphic images of the DAF spillage on roadways, including chicken heads and feet.

While I have outlined specific examples and locations in this testimony, the impact is not limited to these places. My children play sports all over the eastern shore of Maryland, and we frequently take day trips as a family to enjoy our home here on the shore. To put these open DAF tanks and unregulated sludge anywhere in Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent, Cecil, Wicomico, Dorchester, Somerset, or Worcester counties would undoubtedly impact our lives and alter our beautiful Maryland Eastern Shore for the worse.

In closing, I request the committee vote favorably for HB991 and any amendments brought forward by the sponsors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MC', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Megan Campbell
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