

Chairman Korman and Members of the Committee,

I am Mark Spencer Cropper of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy and Almand, P.A. and I represent Denali Water Solutions, LLC (Denali). Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 991 and the amendments presented to the committee through negotiated efforts with the MD Dept. of Agriculture (MDA). I also want to thank the DelMarVa Chicken Association (DCA) and its leadership in being a voice for growers, integrators, processors and recyclers like Denali. While Denali opposes the original version of HB 991, it supports the amendments suggested by MDA and DCA and would like to offer its operational expertise in further clarifying definitions and the intent of this permitting bill.

As such, Denali supports, with amendments, HB 991 as reviewed to date. However, it anticipates additional amendments as bill language is perfected through committee deliberations. Denali believes that while regulatory agencies should possess the authority to enforce standards, checks and balances must be in place to prevent arbitrary decision-making. **Additionally, language allowing MDA to take actions based upon "any good cause" determined solely in its discretion raises valid concerns regarding accountability and transparency.**

Denali respectfully requests the opportunity to coordinate with committee members and MDA staff to clarify questions related to the potential implementation of future permitting requirements. It suggests language revisions that provide greater clarity, specificity and accountability within a clearly stated permitting structure and regulatory framework and it looks forward to working with committee members, staff, MDA and DCA to achieve this goal. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Mark Spencer Cropper, Esq.
Attorney for Denali Water Solutions, LLC