

Peter & Rhonda Tomko
28263 Log Cabin Rd
Salisbury MD 21801
609-548-3825

SB0480

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As residents of Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD we are concerned about environmental justice for our families and community, and we are writing to express our **strong** opposition to SB0480, the *Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program - Establishment bill*.

This bill does NOT invest in clean, renewable energy sources. As written, it is blatantly vague – indicating our communities can be locked into a system reliant on generating harmful sources of pollution *while producing energy*. **This is not a clean solution**. Biogas production often relies on large-scale, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to fuel them. These operations, especially poultry, already generate disproportionate amounts of waste, threaten their rural economies and the local public's health, and negatively alter a community's quality of life. The passage of this bill will add to an already immense load of pollution and contaminants on our communities.

Currently, many environmental permit applications **do not include a public engagement process**, and do not take into consideration the already existing cumulative harms posed by multiple and historic sources of pollution. We do not need additional pollution sources, like biogas infrastructure, introduced. Instead, we need CLEAN solutions to current waste issues, transparency, and a voice in what drastically affects our community and our families.

Incentivizing biogas production is particularly concerning for us as we live in the middle of the commercial poultry industry - the largest livestock sector. Attempts to utilize poultry litter in the creation of biogas would put an undue burden on our residential/agricultural community. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE A DIRTY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX under the guise of "clean energy".

Our family has four generations living here, on a small agricultural parcel. We feed our family and neighbors with our bounty. Our entire purpose is to regenerate the land, and NOT impose negative by-products upon our community by using regenerative- and permaculture-practices to close our own loop of waste management, and we cherish the fresh air and clean life we have built here. WE DO NOT WANT THE FALSE PROMISE OF CLEAN ENERGY proposed by this bill.

Please strongly consider our request to OPPOSE this bill.

Sincerely,
Peter & Rhonda Tomko
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD