

Good afternoon, Representative Korman, Committee members. My name is Mary Baker and I am the executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association.

Since 1997, the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association has been communicating the benefits of resource recovery within the biosolids community and the communities we serve.

I am here to express concern about House Bill 909, which will **negatively impact** the beneficial reuse of biosolids. Biosolids are a **valuable resource** created during wastewater treatment. Land application of biosolids improves soil health, reduces the need for carbon-intensive synthetic fertilizers, and helps to fight climate change by carbon sequestration.

It's important to recognize that wastewater treatment plants are **passive receivers** of waste and they do **not** produce PFAS. The levels of PFAS in most biosolids are **significantly lower** than those found in common household products.

House Bill 909 notes its basis on EPA regulation. The EPA's draft risk assessment is **not yet finalized** and **should not** be the basis for new legislation. It is **premature** to enact laws based on a **draft** assessment that is still under review. In fact, the EPA directly stated that the draft risk assessment is **not** a regulation and does **not** compel action.

I ask that you report **unfavorably on House Bill 909**. Let the EPA complete its risk assessment and establish any necessary regulations before enacting potentially harmful restrictions on biosolids reuse.

**Please protect the clean water sector, essential service providers, and rate payers from the unintended consequences of this bill.**