

**Testimony in Support of HB0909
Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances -
Concentration Limits**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee HEARING February 26, 2025
Submitted on the 24th day of February 2025 at 12:00 pm**

To Chair Korman and Committee Members,

My name is John Thacker. I own a home on Island Creek, a tributary of the Choptank River in Talbot County, and I urge a favorable report on SB732.

HB0909, Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Concentration Limits Bill, will serve to restrict the application of sewage sludge (Bio-Solids) containing excess PFAS to farmland as fertilizer, and thereby lessen the load of PFAS into Maryland's groundwater, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

I **support** this bill because my home is in the critical area on Island Creek, with numerous farm fields in immediate proximity. My well water is drawn from a 200-foot deep groundwater well, and I fish and crab in Island Creek. Without the appropriate restrictions contemplated by this bill, there would remain a risk that the ground water and tidal waters will become increasingly contaminated with PFAS, adversely impacting my family's and my neighbors' health. HB0909 smartly addresses these concerns without overburdening agricultural interests.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully ask this committee to give HB0909 a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,
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