



Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 24, 2026

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of SB719 - Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation

On behalf of the more than 7,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I respectfully submit written testimony in support of SB719 – Sewage Sludge – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation. This legislation establishes reasonable restrictions on the land application of sewage sludge, or products containing sewage sludge, when total concentrations of certain regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) meet or exceed specified thresholds.

Maryland farmers have long relied on biosolids and other soil amendments as essential tools to maintain soil health, support crop productivity, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. At the same time, farmers are increasingly aware of and concerned about the risks associated with PFAS contamination, and the potential long-term impacts these chemicals may have on farmland, water quality, and public trust.

SB719 strikes an appropriate balance by preserving access to a valuable, cost-effective soil amendment while putting in place safeguards to prevent harmful levels of PFAS from entering agricultural systems. This approach both protects farmers, who are often the end users of these products, and maintains the viability of a practice that supports soil fertility and environmental stewardship.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau urges a favorable report on SB719.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations
Maryland Farm Bureau

Please contact Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions