



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB719
Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 20, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB 719** on behalf of Assateague Coastal Trust.

Assateague Coastal Trust is dedicated to its mission of conservation, preservation, and protection of the waterways of the Lower Eastern Shore and the Coastal Bays of Delmarva. Our work helps ensure that residents and visitors to Maryland's coast forever enjoy the resources of our coastal waters.

This bill helps to address a growing threat to Maryland's waterways, farms, and the health of citizens across the state. While Worcester County does not currently have land application of biosolids, we strongly support this bill and its benefits for the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

PFAS often called "forever chemicals" can persist in soil and water for decades, bioaccumulate in crops, and ultimately reach consumers. Once contamination occurs, remediation is extraordinarily expensive and sometimes impossible. SB 719 takes an important step towards establishing clear concentration limits for PFAS in sewage sludge.

In Maine, widespread PFAS contamination linked to biosolid application has devastated family farms, contaminating milk supplies and has forced state intervention. In many cases, these farmers have been forced to abandon their farms.

In Texas, similar concerns have emerged where land-applied biosolids have been connected to elevated PFAS levels affecting ranchers and rural communities. The application of these biosolids is even connected to the fatalities of livestock.

These cases illustrate the financial, environmental, and emotional toll of delayed action.

By setting clear standards now, we can avoid farm losses seen in other states, and give agricultural producers certainty. It ensures that farmers are not unknowingly applying materials that could impair their soil. Assateague Coastal Trust fears a future in which farmers on the Eastern Shore might lose their ability to farm their own land because of preventable contamination.

Additionally, and concerning for waterways across the State, PFAS contaminated soils can lead to contamination entering waterbodies and groundwater. This poses a serious risk for further contamination of aquatic life, and bioaccumulation in important resource species, like striped bass, oysters, and crabs.

Even in counties where biosolids are not currently applied, we recognize that prevention is far less costly than remediation. SB 719 takes a responsible, science-driven step to support farmers, protect consumers, and preserve the environmental heritage of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Assateague Coastal Trust urges an **FAVORABLE REPORT** on **SB 719**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Swanson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Taylor Swanson,
Executive Director and Assateague COASTKEEPER
Assateague Coastal Trust