

**HB1438 Agriculture - Processing of Poultry Litter for Alternative Use**  
House Environment and Transportation Committee, March 4th, 2020

**Position: Oppose**

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the committee,

My name is Maria Payan. I am a regional consultant for the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project. I work in communities in Maryland and Delaware. I have a good knowledge base and much experience with organic composting recycling facilities.

This legislation seeks to address one of the problems created by factory farms - the enormous amount of waste created. While it may seem like a good idea to repurpose the waste to prevent it from further polluting the Chesapeake Bay, I have learned first hand that organic recycling facilities have not been good for the communities or the environment where they are located. I would like to focus on Blessings Blends in Sussex County Delaware. Neighbors and the environment have suffered greatly because the facility takes in a waste stream from processing plants and farms, but the recycled product does not have a market. Neighbors suffer from private well contamination, respiratory problems, infestations of flies and the stream ninety feet away is impaired with very low dissolved oxygen levels. The Enterococcus level in downstream water samples was almost six times the guidelines for Safe Recreational Waters. The piles of waste remained uncovered and sat for ten years. This mountain of waste was approximately forty feet high.

This proposed legislation could incentive more facilities, including biogas facilities, like the proposed Perdue AgriRecycle facility in Seaford Delaware. I have added pictures here and a link to a video to show the enormosity of the problem. I hope you will take this into consideration as this would certainly result in an unintended consequence with this legislation, as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

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Video: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/vv1dia39kcns4e4/DJI\\_0038.MOV?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/vv1dia39kcns4e4/DJI_0038.MOV?dl=0)



90 ft from left of tank is Slaughter Creek on 303 D list -Impaired



Runoff



Fly infestations