



**To: The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee**

From: Bioenergy Devco

**Subject: House Bill 1379, Department of General Services - Renewable
Natural Gas Pilot Program - Establishment**

Date: March 7, 2024

Position: Favorable

Bioenergy Devco supports House Bill 1379, Department of General Services - Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program – Establishment.

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC), an international leader in anaerobic digestion solutions with over 24 years of experience. BDC’s exceptional team of engineers, microbial experts, biologists, chemists, agronomists, construction designers and facility managers are dedicated to delivering an environmentally sound solution that creates a true source of renewable, carbon-negative energy as well as a high nutrient soil amendment.

House Bill 1379 requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, to establish a Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program in the Department on or before January 1, 2025. The Department of General Services, in consultation with the Commission, must issue a solicitation for a renewable natural gas contract. The Program terminates on December 31, 2027.

BDC enthusiastically supports House Bill 1379. Together with our European sister company, BTS Biogas, we bring 25 years’ experience in the field of anaerobic digestion with 250 plants worldwide. We pride ourselves in our ability to operate in densely populated urban settings that often represent underserved communities who bear the brunt of the adverse environmental, social, and economic consequences of our current waste processing industry. Unfortunately, these impacts are difficult to quantify or clearly identify. One aspect of this bill will address this issue by requiring a study to determine the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the 3-year pilot program established in this bill will gather the necessary data to demonstrate the social, economic, and environmental benefits of transitioning to this renewable energy source.

Sadly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports the United States discards 335 billion pounds of food waste each year and 85% of those food scraps are

currently burned or buried. Recent studies show that food waste is responsible for 58% of landfill methane emissions released to the atmosphere, a potent greenhouse gas possessing 25 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. The situation becomes more dire when you factor in the 1.3 billion tons of global food waste produced each year.

Organics recycling facilities are pivotal in mitigating the release of these harmful greenhouse gases. They contribute to enhanced carbon sequestration, reduce fossil fuel use and generate clean, renewable energy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling food waste is a critical component to achieve the EPA's nationwide goal of a 50% recycling rate by 2030 and supports the USDA Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy as well as the U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan, and the states greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Using the Life Cycle Assessment methodology or LCA. We estimate that on average a single facility provides a net GHG emissions reduction of 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This translates to taking 12,000 gasoline cars off the road and the carbon sequestration impact of planting 35,032 acres of forest. This legislation will ensure we are gathering the health data needed to take appropriate action addressing the social cost of current industry practices.

For these reasons, BDC respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1379.

Please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992, if you have any questions.