

Testimony before the  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
March 5, 2024

Senate Bill 1074  
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

**The organizations and individuals listed below respectfully request a favorable report on SB 1074**, which prohibits a person from utilizing industrial sludge in the State without a permit. The permit program proposed in the bill addresses deficiencies in the State’s approach to industrial sludge management that prevents the content of sludge from being well understood, encourages overapplication of sludge to land, and potentially violates federal and State law.

Maryland has become a dumping ground for Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) material, the sludge that’s left over from industrial protein rendering. While often used as an agricultural soil amendment, overapplication to land and poorly controlled storage and handling of DAF subjects nearby farmers and residents to unbearable odors, insects, human health impacts, and the threat of polluted runoff reaching our waterways.

While Delaware and Virginia require a permit to utilize industrial sludge, Maryland does not. As a result, Maryland has become a profitable place for the material to go—and it’s more than we can handle. As much as half of the region’s industrial sludge has been spread on Maryland land in recent years, according to a University of Maryland study.

The permitting program established by SB 1074 puts Maryland on par with neighboring states that administer similar programs and closes a significant loophole that allows Maryland waters and communities to be harmed.

**For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 1074.**

Sincerely,

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Potomac Conservancy

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