



SENATE
STATE OF DELAWARE
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

December 1, 2022

Lisa A. Vest, Hearing Officer
Office of the Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Ms. Vest:

Please accept this letter of support for Bioenergy DevCo's proposed anaerobic digestion project, a tried, true, and well-tested organics recycling system to be located at the former Sussex County Perdue AgriRecycle facility outside of Seaford. This completely enclosed technology will not only manage organic waste that is currently land-applied and sent to landfills, but also create renewable natural gas and nutrient-rich soil amendments similar to compost from agricultural wastes such as poultry litter and processing byproducts.

Agriculture is Delaware's No.1 industry, and chicken farming and processing are an important part of Sussex County's economic fiber and rural heritage. Sussex County farmers produce more than 200 million broilers per year, and the chicken industry supports more than 20,000 jobs and generates \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact in the state of Delaware. Seventy cents out of every dollar earned on a Delaware farm is associated with our State's chicken industry.

Bioenergy DevCo's proposed anaerobic digester supports the chicken industry and our family farmers by offering a local and more environmentally sustainable disposable alternative for the organic materials produced in raising and processing chickens. This environmentally sound project to repurpose and upgrade the former Perdue facility represents a more than \$55 million investment by Bioenergy DevCo in Sussex County. It will create a state-of-the-art facility – known as the Bioenergy Innovation Center – dedicated to sustainable nutrient management, renewable energy production, and the creation of healthy soil products. In addition to creating jobs, this project will serve as an anchor for green economic development, be a basis of clean innovation, and will serve as an environmental showcase in Sussex County and Delaware.

Perdue's original mission for this facility 20 years ago was to help the chicken industry on the Delmarva Peninsula manage residual organic materials in an environmentally smart manner. Bioenergy DevCo's proposed organics recycling project is in full support of and in keeping with this mission, and we are pleased to hear that Bioenergy will partner with local companies to distribute renewable, natural energy.

With these benefits in mind, we urge DNREC to approve Bioenergy DevCo's permit applications so that this important project can move forward in Sussex County. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Gerald W. Hocker
Delaware State Senator, Minority Leader
20th Senatorial District



Brian G. Pettyjohn
Delaware State Senate, Minority Whip
19th Senatorial District



David L. Wilson
Delaware State Senator
18th Senatorial District



Bryant L. Richardson
Delaware State Senate
21st Senatorial District