



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:

With our vast natural resources and quality of life, Sussex County is starting to be recognized as a new home for innovative businesses.

As chairman of the Sussex County Economic Development Action Committee, a coalition of more than 90 business leaders, industry experts, and entrepreneurs, I'm proud to write in support of the newest venture that will continue to bring jobs, technology, and inspiration to our county.

The Bioenergy Innovation Center has the potential to become a new hub for green energy, environmental technology, and agricultural innovation that can benefit our entire peninsula from its base outside of Blades. SEDAC fully endorses this project and strongly urges DNREC to approve the permits requested.

When it was founded 20 years ago, the Perdue AgriRecycle complex was the leading edge of progress on environmental technology, a win-win initiative to develop a partial solution to the challenge of nutrient loading and chicken litter.

Today, technology has evolved, and new solutions are on the table. Bioenergy DevCo wants to transform the former Perdue compost operation, which it has been running successfully as a facility that will take chicken litter and poultry processing byproducts and transform them into clean, renewable natural gas and healthy soil amendments, similar to compost. The anaerobic digestion system is tried and tested, safe and secure, and used around the globe.

DNREC's approval of this center will be a victory for Delaware industry, Delaware's environment, and Delaware family farmers. It will help improve our air, land, water, and livelihoods. And it will position Sussex County as a focal point for researchers and thinkers who want to create similar projects and ventures, creating a cascade of innovation that will benefit our county for decades to come. We urge DNREC to approve the permits sought by Bioenergy DevCo for the Bioenergy Innovation Center.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Conaway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joe Conaway
Chairman

Sussex Economic Development Action Committee
29612 Cobblestone Way
Millsboro, DE 19966