



Delaware State Farm Bureau
3457 S. DuPont Highway
Camden, DE 19934

Office: (302) 697-3183 / Fax: (302) 697-1428
defb.org

November 21, 2022

Dear Secretary Garvin,

Delaware Farm Bureau (DEFB) **strongly supports** DNREC approval of permit applications submitted for the Bioenergy Innovation Center near Seaford in Sussex County. On behalf of its members, including farmers, other ag professionals, and community members, DEFB advocates for environmentally and economically sustainable development. **DEFB leadership has reviewed the Plan of Operation for the Resource Recovery Facility and toured the location. We believe the operation of the facility according to this plan will facilitate the management of what some consider waste to realize an opportunity to promote regenerative agriculture.**

DEFB is the largest general agriculture organization in Delaware and includes members from an incredibly diverse spectrum of agriculture, large producers, and small ones. DEFB represents producers of nearly every type of farm production suitable to the region. Delaware farmers are committed to being part of the solution to Delaware's environmental challenges.

This commitment leads DEFB to support the proposed anaerobic digester to be located in Sussex County. Anaerobic digestion may be unfamiliar to some citizens and therefore subject to opposition due to fear of the unknown. However, this completely enclosed technology, proven successful around the globe for decades, will take byproducts of the poultry industry and transform these materials into a virtually odorless fossil fuel-free soil product and sustainable renewable natural gas.

Formerly the Perdue AgriRecycle facility, the Bioenergy Innovation Center has a successful 20-year history initially in the production of nutrient-rich fertilizer pellets and now as a compost facility selling more than 30,000 tons of compost throughout the region.

DEFB is confident the new owners can be trusted to deliver on their commitments based on their 25-year history in building and managing anaerobic digesters throughout the world, with their most recent facility opening in Jessup, MD.

For the farming community, we believe that the management of what some consider waste is truly an opportunity to promote regenerative agriculture. This center will reduce reliance on fossil fuel-based and expensive fertilizers while managing nutrients more effectively- which results in lower runoff and higher nutrient absorption by crops and plants.

By managing organic waste, creating green energy, and establishing the use of carbon-smart soil products, this proposed anaerobic digester will support the concurrent environmental



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and economic goals of our sustainable agricultural and chicken industry benefiting Sussex County and the Delmarva Peninsula.

It is for these reasons we **strongly support** the building and operation of this facility and the permits now before the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for resource recovery, air quality, and wastewater.

Sincerely,

Wm. Donald Clifton, II
Executive Director DEFB