



**Friends of the Nanticoke River**

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November 9, 2022

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Hearing Officer, Docket #2022-P-MULTI-0012  
Re: Bioenergy Innovation Center Application

To Whom it May Concern,

The Friends of the Nanticoke River are in support of the proposal by Bioenergy Devco to construct an anaerobic digestion facility at the Bioenergy Innovation Center in Seaford, DE.

Our organizations work to sustain the health of the local environment, and we believe this facility will greatly improve poultry waste management within the Nanticoke and Wicomico River Watersheds without negatively impacting climate change.

Although the chicken industry has made much progress in reducing waste, through composting, rendering plant production of pet food, etc., the problem of high-nutrient processing waste with serious odor and other environmental problems still exists across the Eastern Shore.

With anaerobic digestion, bacteria decompose organic matter to produce methane. This methane is captured and provides a readily-usable source of natural gas. The greatly-reduced solid waste from this process is dry, odor- and pathogen-free, and easily transported.

While some have questioned the validity of the “carbon capture” claims for anaerobic digestion, it is clearly the case that the carbon generated from decomposition of these organic wastes will be converted to usable energy instead of simply being released directly into the atmosphere as it naturally decomposes. No net greenhouse gas will be produced by this process, and the replacement of fossil fuels by this biogas is certainly a net gain for the environment.

Our organization has a long track record of supporting agriculture on Delmarva, and we believe the use of this technology is a major step in reducing the negative impacts of the economically vital chicken industry and maintaining the livelihoods of farmers in our region.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Jay Martin, President  
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