

## Biogas permit application public comment

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Tue 10/25/2022 3:33 PM

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources) <DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov>

Cc: Greg Layton <glayton@fwwatch.org>

My name is Jeri Berc. I am a retired Ph.D. soil scientist that was employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. While employed I served as the State Conservationist in Maryland, and as the Director of the National Resources Inventory. I was a technical delegate to UN treaty negotiations on Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Biodiversity and Desertification. In Maryland I was responsible for technical and financial assistance to farmers for manure and nutrient management. While representing the US government on climate change I worked to include credit to farmers for sequestering carbon in their soil to offset carbon emissions.

With this background I am equipped to judge this project for its environmental impact, and I am registering my strong opposition for the detrimental effect it will definitely have on agricultural soil, water and air quality, climate change, and the health and well-being of the people residing in its the region. The scope of the project will cause these negative impacts to be long term and cumulative, and make beneficial approaches to managing our natural resources and agricultural systems more difficult to establish. The project externalizes the environmental and health costs that it will create, and only enables extraction of wealth from a resource (manure) that could be beneficially used if composted and applied to land directly. The transportation to concentration the resource and to distribute the byproduct has additional environmental costs that we can no longer tolerate as we teeter on the brink of environmental disaster due to climate change. All of these negative impacts are in addition to the fundamental problem that it is contributing to the fossil fuel economy and direct release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere

For the sake of the sustainability of our environment and natural resources, and for the health and welfare of the residents of our region, please deny a permit for this proposed project.

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