



March 25, 2019

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chairman, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB0511 – Maryland Commercial Fertilizer Law – Definition of Soil Conditioner –
Alteration
SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

The American Biogas Council (ABC) writes to support HB 511 and its inclusion of anaerobic digestate in the definition of soil conditioners.

The American Biogas Council is the only national trade association representing the entire biogas industry in the U.S. The ABC represents over 200 companies covering the entire biogas supply chain who are dedicated to maximizing the production and use of biogas from organic material, including many companies in Maryland and companies interested in doing business here.

As you know, biogas systems take organic material, like food waste, and digest it using a natural microbial process to produce biogas and both liquid and solid digestate. The recognition of digestate in the definition of a soil conditioner can create more opportunities to build biogas systems in Maryland to recycle organic material, produce baseload renewable energy or fuels and catalyze investment and the creation of jobs. Encouraging the use of digestate will not only increase the health of Maryland's soils and create opportunities to remove phosphorus from the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it will help the biogas industry to build more biogas systems which will bring more investments and good paying clean energy jobs to Maryland.

Currently Maryland has 25 operational biogas systems, but we see the potential for more than 38 new biogas projects to be developed. Constructing this many projects would generate \$114 million in capital investment, and create 950 short-term construction jobs, 76 long-term jobs, and numerous industry-supporting jobs.

Thank you for your leadership to grow Maryland's options for recycling organic material and the use of digestate. We urge you and your committee's support of HB511.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Serfass
Executive Director, American Biogas Council