

Date: 16 October 2017

Subject: Testimony on CB78-2017

My name is Stu Kohn, 8709 Yellow Bird Court, Laurel, MD, 20723. I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. The intent of this proposed Bill, CB78-2017 is appreciated, but unfortunately are only words if not strictly enforced like any other Bill. It is obvious that the sponsors of this Bill fully recognize the importance of such a Bill in an attempt to ensure that safety measurements as voiced by the concerned citizens do indeed have merit. In this effort the following suggested recommendations are as follows:

Please refer to Page 2, Line 25 – where it says “shall be turned or reclaimed at a minimum of every three months” how will this be enforced and regulated?

Refer to Page 2, lines 29 thru 32 – how will this be enforced and who will measure?

Refer to Page 3, Line 13 – Define the acronym “AHJ.”

Refer to Page 3, Lines 14 thru 16 – how often in a given day and will this be tested and who will do it?

Refer to Page 3, Lines 17 and 18 – are there any current operations whereby a Fire Station is not within a 5-mile radius?

Refer to Page 3, Line 19 – who will determine if the “water supply is static?” Who does the “engineer” work for – the Mulching /Composting Facility or the County or State?

Refer to Page 3, Line 25 thru 27 – states, “based on the material on site, other provisions such as sprinklers, pre-piped systems, or constant monitoring of the pile may be required.” The amount of material needs to be determined to not to exceed when “other provisions may be requested.” Please change the word “may” to “shall.”

Refer to Page 4, Lines 11, 12, and 14 – Does “ten days” mean business or calendar days?

Refer to Page 4, Line 16 – where it states “90 days” how was 90 days determined – why not 30 or 60 days?

Refer to Page 4, Lines 21 thru 23 – what is the anticipated time it will take from the issued notice to convict the guilty party?

Refer to Page 5, Lines 28 and 29 – Why may an agricultural operation have unlimited hours of operation?

Refer to Page 6, Lines 1 thru 3 – “Agricultural Products need to be defined?”

It would be appreciated if the aforementioned suggestions were incorporated in the proposed Bill in an attempt to further encourage clarity and further guidance. We sincerely, hope that after over 3 years of discussing this subject is finally covered over so we can finally put it to bed. All anyone from day one has been asking is for our decision makers to simply ensure that all their constituents are fully protected from any mulching, composting, or wood processing facility. No farmer should in anyway be penalized so long as the residents are fully protected from any health or safety issues.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President