Dear Chairwoman Carter-Conway:

The Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition members signed above SUPPORT SB 773 and request a FAVORABLE report by this committee.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, known as CAFOs, have large populations of animals that produce toxic gases, including ammonia, that can threaten human health. Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen (from ammonia) is also a major pollutant to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Unfortunately, local governments on the Eastern Shore as well as the state do not have adequate monitoring of these emissions or public health ordinances that would create protections against threats to air quality and drinking water from industrial-sized poultry operations. Meanwhile, childhood asthma, lung cancer and lung disease rates on the Lower Eastern Shore are among the highest in the state (see charts page 2).

According to the U.S. EPA’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay, “air sources contribute about a third of the total nitrogen loads delivered to the Bay.” Of that amount, the majority (78-81%) was deposited on land or non-tidal waterways and then transported to the Bay.1 Although nitrogen deposition was dominated by nitrogen oxides in the late 20th Century, EPA estimated that by 2020, ammonia will be responsible for more than half of total nitrogen deposition.2 Therefore it is critical to have better ammonia monitoring.

To better understand the relationship between air quality and CAFOs, we need more data. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has an excellent Ambient Air Monitoring Program, which includes two sites on the Eastern Shore at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and Horn Point Laboratory. However, these stations cannot pinpoint the source of air pollution or determine the contribution of particular sectors. MDE has the expertise to conduct a reputable monitoring program for CAFOs and should bring that expertise to bear in order to ensure Marylanders that live near CAFOs have safe and healthy air to breathe.

The poultry industry is expanding - planning hundreds of new, bigger poultry houses on the Eastern Shore, and the impacts of these plans should be thoroughly understood before they are approved. This legislation is not a tax and does not place any new burden on the industry. Rather, this is a duty of state government to perform a necessary service to Eastern Shore residents.

SB 773 requires MDE to conduct an environmental assessment of the Department’s compliance and the compliance of concentrated animal feeding operations with state and federal air quality laws and to report on the emissions of air pollutants from concentrated animal feeding operations. This information is important for Marylanders and important for efforts to safeguard the health of local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.

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2 Id. at page L-16, Table L-3.
For all these reasons, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on SB773.

For more information, contact: Dawn Stoltzfus, coordinator, Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition, at 410-990-0284 or dawn@thehatchergroup.com

**Figure 9: Asthma Hospitalization Rates by Jurisdiction, Maryland 2009**


2) Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

3) Includes Maryland residents hospitalized in Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and West Virginia.

**Maryland Lung Cancer Incidence Rates by Geographical Area: Comparison to U.S. Rate, 2007-2011**

Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population and are per 100,000 population.

Maryland area-specific rates with 95% confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H, Table 2.

U.S. lung cancer incidence rate, 2007-2011: 60.1/100,000

Maryland lung cancer incidence rate, 2007-2011: 59.9/100,000

Source: Maryland Cancer Registry

U.S. SEER, SEER*Stat