



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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May 15, 2018

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
Assembly District 111
2550 Riverfront Center
Amsterdam, NY 12010

RE: Assembly Bill A10500 – Beneficial Use of Biosolids in NYS

Dear Assemblyman Santabarbara,

The NY Water Environment Association was founded over 90 years ago. Our mission is to serve the best interest of the public by promoting sustainable clean water quality management through science, education and training. We have ~3,000 members throughout the state that work in a variety of disciplines all involved in water quality management, where as you know, biosolids plays an important role.

Biosolids are a necessary byproduct of municipal wastewater treatment. Biosolids are created following the treatment process that converts human waste to microbial biomass, which is then stabilized through advanced processes. These biosolids are stabilized in accordance with USEPA and NYSDEC regulations to reduce or remove pathogenic organisms, and potential disease carrying vectors to acceptable levels.

Currently, there is a shift in paradigm within the water quality industry towards water resource recovery, instead of wastewater treatment. As a part of the shift, biosolids are increasingly considered a resource planned into the life-cycle of facilities. The value of energy, nutrients and trace minerals in biosolids can be extracted, resulting in lower costs of disposal and beneficial use, a benefit to ratepayers and taxpayers.

As our population increases, sewage sludge and biosolids produced also increase. Municipal water resource recovery facilities need flexibility in managing the State's residual stream. Alternative outlets yield greater competition for our biosolids, reducing cost, incentivizing investment in research and development, and protecting public health and the environment.

Since biosolids contain nutrients and other trace constituents that provide excellent soil conditioning, land application of biosolids, under the correct circumstances, can be highly beneficial for agriculture. Not only is land application a decade's long tried and true strategy, but also can replace the use of chemical-based fertilizers under some conditions.

We understand that you are supporting legislation that would establish a moratorium on the processing of biosolids. We take the same position as our sister organizations, the Mid-Atlantic Biosolids Association (MABA) and the North East Biosolids and Residuals Association (NEBRA) and ask that you reconsider your support for a moratorium that would leave municipalities across the State that beneficially reuse biosolids with fewer, and likely more expensive, alternatives while depriving their agricultural partners of the useful constituents contained in well-regulated biosolids.

We would be happy to discuss this matter with you in person at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoffrey Baldwin, PE, BCEE
President, NYWEA

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo
NYSDEC Commissioner, Basil Seggos
NYS Agriculture Committee
NYS Assembly Energy Committee
NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
NYS Senate Agriculture Committee
NYS Senate Environmental Conservation Committee
NYS Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee
NYS Senate Technology and Innovation Committee
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