



Lower Mount Bethel Township

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October 6, 2014

Honorable Representative Joe Emrick
2165 Mt. Bethel Highway
Mt. Bethel, PA 18343

RE: House Resolution No. 426

Dear Honorable Representative Emrick:

As you are probably aware, the Board of Supervisors of Lower Mount Bethel Township has strongly advocated for our state representatives to allow municipalities to engage in a level of oversight in the application of sewage sludge (biosolids). Currently, the administration and regulation of the application of sludge is solely the responsibility of the DEP.

It is frustrating as elected local officials to stand by and watch helplessly as our constituents must endure the effects of sludge, particularly those that are adjoining property owners where application of this noxious substance occurs. Our constituents elected us into office to promote their health, safety and welfare. In this case, we can't provide them with these most basic of assurances because municipalities are currently forbidden from regulating the application of sludge. Currently, Lower Mount Bethel Township has the most preserved farmland in the County of Northampton. Unfortunately, several hundred acres of this beautiful, pristine treasure are marred by sludge and this number continues to grow.

As the elected legislative body of Lower Mount Bethel Township, we humbly request that you give favorable consideration to adopting House Resolution No. 426. It is our sincere hope that during the course of the committee's review, they will address at least the following issues:

1. An increase in pre-application and post-application testing particularly in light of new pharmaceuticals and industrial products emptied into the sewer systems.
2. A need for the presence of more signage on properties that land apply sludge. All signage should indicate the name of the sludge applicator, DEP, contact information and grade of the product.
3. A requirement of the sludge applicator to perform well testing for adjoining landowners both pre-application and periodically post-application. This testing

should be done at the expense of the land applicator or by the property owner where the sludge is being applied with the testing to be conducted by an independent testing facility selected by the adjoining landowner.

4. A need to re-evaluate all buffer areas.
5. A requirement that the notification application information be provided to the municipality as a mandatory requirement instead of a courtesy.
6. Finally, a requirement that DEP provide copies of the year-end sludge reports to the municipality for public review.

It is our sincere hope that as an elected official, you inherently understand the duty to protect the welfare of your constituents. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Gallaher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Gallaher
Chairman
Board of Supervisors