

Subject: Protect Our Farmland – Ban Sewage Sludge Spreading in New York

Dear Governor Hochul,

We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As residents of New York, we are deeply concerned about the practice of spreading sewage sludge on our state's farmland. As advocates for the future of our great state, we implore you to consider banning the use of sewage sludge as fertilizer on New York's agricultural lands, and to explore more sustainable and responsible alternatives.

Sewage sludge, the byproduct of wastewater treatment plants, is laden with hazardous chemicals and heavy metals that pose significant risks to human health and the environment. When spread on farmland, these contaminants can make their way into our food chain and water supply, with potentially disastrous consequences. As the leader of our state, it is your responsibility to protect the health and well-being of all New Yorkers, and taking action against this dangerous practice is a crucial step in that direction.

Thankfully, there are viable alternatives to sewage sludge that can be used as fertilizers. Composting food scraps, for example, is an environmentally friendly method of recycling organic waste that produces nutrient-rich soil amendments, without the risk of harmful contaminants provided that sewage sludge is not part of that waste stream. Encouraging and investing in such sustainable practices can help ensure a safe, healthy, and prosperous future for New York's agricultural sector.

In conclusion, I urge you to take decisive action to protect the people and environment of our great state by banning the use of sewage sludge on New York's farmland. By promoting sustainable and responsible agricultural practices, we can safeguard our health, preserve our precious natural resources, and secure the future of New York's agricultural industry. As a concerned citizen, I look forward to seeing your commitment for action on this vital issue.

Specifically, we ask that you direct DEC to address the concerns expressed in the attached 'Comment' being submitted on DMM-DRAFT 7/ Biosolids Recycling in New York State – Interim Strategy for the Control of PFAS Compounds

Further, we respectfully request that you direct the DEC Commissioner to adopt the recommendations outlined in our 'Comment', and direct the Commissioner of Ag and Markets, in light of the past decade of research and other states policy and legislative changes, to review under the Right to Farm Law his previous determination that the land application WWTP biosolids is safe.

Sincerely,