



To: Interested Parties

April 20, 2017

Re: DLLC Model Poultry Litter Transportation Program Attributes

Dear Partners:

Since its formation in 2015, the Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge's (DLLC) efforts have been focused primarily along two pathways for managing poultry litter on the Delmarva Peninsula - responsible land application of animal manure and litter and alternative uses and markets for manure and poultry litter. Today, I am pleased to report that the DLLC has reached consensus on adjustments that could be made to state poultry litter transport programs to improve their effective functioning and environmental performance.

Through a prolonged and thoughtful dialogue involving grain and poultry producers, environmental advocates and state government agency representatives; the DLLC Steering Committee reached consensus on a set of model attributes intended to eliminate duplicative enforcement or oversight provisions associated with nutrient management plans (NMPs) and state cost-share transport programs; entice farmers to utilize the state-sponsored transport programs to effectively relocate litter out of areas with Fertility Index Values (FIV)>150; develop state databases and recording systems to identify eligible participants in state transport programs across state lines; ensure the more timely delivery of cost-share payments; and provide for compliance verification through the corresponding state's Nutrient Management audit program. A copy of these attributes is enclosed for your information and use.

The states of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia all offer cost-share programs to support and promote the relocation of litter from areas that are saturated with nutrients to alternative use facilities or areas where litter can be land applied to provide nutrients at agronomically correct rates to support crop production. Through their work, the DLLC Steering Committee identified pros and cons to each state's cost-share program; however, in the interest of providing a regional solution, the Challenge leaders developed and endorsed attributes of what might constitute a "model transport program". Included among the attributes are suggested eligibility requirements for senders, receivers and haulers of litter; information that each participant should be required to provide; along with claim for payment, records retention and compliance verification processes.

DLLC believes that improvements or refinements to current government sponsored transport programs would enhance the economic viability of existing private transport services, providing incentives to relocate litter/manure greater distances to farms that are eligible to receive nutrients or to proven alternative use facilities. In releasing these recommendations, the DLLC encourages its members and Friends of the Challenge to advocate for their adoption. DLLC also urges policy officials in each state to increase annual appropriations for these critically important programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew McLean".

Andrew McLean, Chairman  
Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge