

# SUPPORT HB 1072

**Topic:** Clarifying local governments' authority to test for toxic contaminants in biosolids land-applied in their jurisdiction.

**Bill Patron:** Del. Amy Laufer

## OVERVIEW:

Under Virginia law, local governments share limited regulatory authority with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) over the land application of biosolids within their jurisdictions. This includes the authority to test and monitor biosolids applications on local farmlands. This bill will reinforce and clarify the existing law by confirming that local governments' testing and monitoring authority includes the ability to test biosolids for any toxic contaminants that threaten human health, water quality, and the environment, not just for the several toxic metals explicitly controlled in the permit regulation.

## REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Local governments already have the authority to test and monitor biosolid land applications locally. HB 1072 only clarifies that their authority extends to all contaminants that threaten human health, state waters, and the environment, but that aren't otherwise explicitly listed in VPA permit regulations.
- This bill allows localities to monitor emerging contaminants like PFAS. A third of Virginia counties where biosolids are land applied have already adopted local ordinances exercising this authority.
- HB 1072 allows local governments to fully exercise their intended role in VA Code: supporting state regulation of biosolids, and protecting human health, state waters, and the environment.



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