



P.O. BOX 96

TEMPLE, PENNSYLVANIA 19560

Phone (610) 926-8811  
Fax (610) 926-8887

January 30, 2006

Johan Berger  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Commercial Manure Broker and Hauler Program  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Mr. Berger:

I am a mushroom grower in Berks County, I am writing this letter to express my opposition to proposed regulations related to commercial manure hauler and brokers, which were published in the December 17, 2005 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. I would request that the Department withdraw these regulations as proposed.

Commercial manure haulers and brokers perform a critical service to Pennsylvania agriculture. Through manure haulers and brokers, farmers generating manure are able to manage their manure in a reasonable and environmentally sound fashion, and other farmers are able to receive and utilize the nutrients provided by manure to enhance their production of crops and commodities.

The burdens that the proposed regulations will impose on commercial manure haulers and brokers will seriously discourage these businesses from continuing to operate, and will discourage others from getting into the manure hauling business. The real losers will be Pennsylvania's farmers, who rely on these services to manage their operations. Farmers will be increasingly unable to be serviced at times when movement of manure is critical to the farm's protection from environmental consequences. Farmers will also bear the significantly higher costs that the proposed regulations will impose on commercial haulers and brokers. And needless suspicion and paranoia in the community and will heighten the tension and animosity between farmers and their neighboring residents and local officials.

I particularly object to the proposed requirements for certification of not only the commercial manure hauling or brokering business but also for each employee in that business. These requirements do not reflect the daily realities of commercial manure hauling or brokering businesses, or the struggles that managers of these businesses must continually face. What is really disturbing to me is the fact that nothing in Act 49, and the definitions of "commercial manure hauler" and "commercial manure broker" make it clear that only the businesses are required to be certified.

Again, I would ask that the Department withdraw the proposed commercial manure hauler and broker regulations.

Very truly yours,

*Dave Carroll*  
Dave Carroll

cc: Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff (via email)  
Senator Rhoades (via email)  
Representative Argall (via email)

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