

# Making a 5 Minute Presentation to Elected Officials

Tell them your credentials (half a minute)

*"There is compelling evidence that the current federal biosolids regulations ( the 503s) and the NC regulations based that are based on that rule, do not protect human health, livestock, or the environment. Despite the increasing complexity and toxicity of land applied sludges, the regulations have not been updated for decades. The federal regulations permit political subdivisions to put in place more protect ordinances as well as choosing the method of sludge disposal. That is what this bill will do."( **one minute**)*

Then you can cite the evidence (OIG report, EPA Targeted Survey, Lewis, Wing, Hale, Case for Caution, Case for Caution Revisited, etc) (2 minutes)

*"Since the 503s are not protective, counties have not only the responsibility but the right to put in place more stringent ordinances such as*

**1. To protect dairy products from pathogens and toxic chemicals, prohibit live stock grazing on pastures that have been treated with biosolids. This will prevent pollutants from being transferred into the human food chain. Also recommend testing for metals and other persistent pollutants in hay and forage grown on land treated with sludge(reference)**

*2. To protect drinking water sources, require groundwater testing, not just for nitrates, but for viruses, the currently regulated metals, of all agricultural sites that have been treated with sludge OR radically increase the horizontal and vertical buffers from wells and aquifers, so sludge contaminants will not enter groundwater*

*3. To prevent metals and other pollutants from becoming bioavailable, require permanent pH monitoring of all treated sites. (reference)*

*4. To prevent short-term yield reduction, prohibit application of lime stabilized sludges on calcerous soils(needs a reference)*

**5. To protect human health, Increase the current distances of application sites from all occupied buildings and wells.**

**6. Recommend that composts products containing sludge be not used in home gardens**

**7. To prevent off-site movement of contaminants, especially pathogens, prohibit stockpiling and topdressing, ensuring that sludge is immediately incorporated into soil. (Behr study Peckenham) "**

*(one minute)*

All of the above information can be stated in under five minutes. Don't worry about politics. Your role is to educate legislators on why land applied sewage sludge (LASS) is bad and why a bill is needed.

### **Questions:**

Hopefully you will be asked questions. This is the most important part of your testimony because there is no time-limit when responding to questions and you can use this opportunity to give legislators additional information as well as be prepared to answer tough questions; to do so, you need to know what questions they will ask such as:

- \* No evidence that anyone ever go sick
- \* LASS has been done for hundreds of years
- \* CAFOs and swine manure are worse

Why are there so few studies that document problems?

- \* The costs! Money, money, money!

For help in rebutting the usual industry-government claims about beneficial use, see [www.sludgefacts.org/Ref126.pdf](http://www.sludgefacts.org/Ref126.pdf). To point out that hazardous waste can legally be discharged into sewage treatment plants see [www.sludgefacts.org/Ref128.pdf](http://www.sludgefacts.org/Ref128.pdf)

To counter the argument that there is no consensus that LASS is harmful and only a few vocal activists are concerned, state the following:

*"Over a hundred farm groups, produce processors, health, and environmental organizations, led by the national Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Farmers Union oppose using biosolids on land where we grow our food or graze our animals. After a second death was linked to sludge-exposure, the EPA stated on CBS Evening News that the practice may not be safe."* Don't let them interrupt you during the question answer period. Just politely state that you would like to finish your statement.

Information Gathered by  
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