

Delegate Gilbert

"My sympathy and heart go out to anyone that is dealing with sludge applications near their homes. I hope that someone in our government system will see what sludge does to human lives and will have the guts to stand up to these powerful companies and stop this insanity before anyone else suffers or dies." Sandra Wyatt, 2008.

With respect to HB 186, I would like to personally thank you for your attempts to empower Virginia's localities with the right to make their own determinations as to how to dispose of sewage sludge within their own boundaries.

As a Virginia attorney and long-time proponent of local determination of how sludge is disposed of, I am incredibly relieved to know that there is at least one member of the Virginia General Assembly who truly gets it.

If I may make a suggestion, I wish you would consider naming this bill "Sandra's Bill."

Sandra Wyatt was a resident of Surry County. Her life was destroyed as a result of sludge being spread on land next to her home. She died in May, 2009; her husband Willis died five months later. They both fought an incredibly courageous legal battle against Synagro, the uber-sludge-slinger in Virginia.

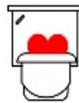
In recognition of their efforts, I have dedicated my website viriniabiosolids.org to the memory of Sandra and Willis, and to the many, many other victims of sludge in Virginia. If you are interested, you can read Sandra Wyatt's story in her own words here: <http://www.something-stinks.com/03-Detailed%20Topics/SandraStory.htm> .

It seems entirely fitting that your bill should also honor Sandra. Hopefully HB 186 will come to symbolize her dying hope that the damage to and destruction of Virginians' lives by sludge will stop.

We all hope that before too much longer a bill like yours will get enough support that Virginia can once again be accurately characterized as a place for lovers rather than a place for sludgers.

Thank you,
Denis O'Brien

Virginia
is for sludgers



Denis O'Brien, aka "The Gutter Grunt"
viriniabiosolids.org
denis@thepatentguy.net
604-533-3114

