



Rep. Christina Sappey's E-News

December 9, 2025

This week I spoke before the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on my legislation [House Bill 2034](#) which would update the PA Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) to include indoor agriculture, specifically mushroom and composting operations.

The goal of HB 2034 is to provide much needed oversight and enforcement authority of the mushroom industry for the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA). Most operations in our area rigorously follow best management practice; however, non-compliant operations are harder to identify, and to date have not met with any repercussions from the state.

House Bill 2034 passed in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee with all but three voting in the affirmative, and will now move on to the full House for a future vote. I do expect this legislation to be amended before a final House vote, and will be collaborating with my colleagues to get this right for our residents and the industry, both of whom deserve our thoughtful consideration.

If you live in the southern part of the 158th, I hope you will view my remarks before the committee [here](#). As I always say, it's not OR, it's AND. I'm employing this motto as I work toward a solution to this crisis. Stay tuned.

January 8, 2025

Similarly, residents residing near mushroom farms and mushroom composting facilities are experiencing periods of unusually dense fog and higher than average amounts of corrosion on outdoor metals, such as HVAC systems, which has resulted in the need to replace these items repeatedly.

Upon my request, an air quality study from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was conducted and concluded sampling in this area in 2023. Study results were presented to residents at a public meeting in March 2024 by the PA Department of Health and revealed seasonal patterns and spikes of hydrogen sulfide near monitoring stations. A summary of the March resident meeting can be found in [this news article](#).

I have advocated for and secured state funding for two additional research projects. One by West Chester University, and one by [American Mushroom Institute](#) (AMI.) The study by West Chester University is at the request of New Garden Township. AMI is studying a method of hydrogen sulfide containment that is very promising.

As with the phorid fly issue, I continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure the state is doing all we can to not only mitigate negative impacts and potential hazards, but to land on effective, lasting, science-based solutions.

April 1, 2024:

Action On Phorid Flies & Air Quality in Southern Chester County

Last week, the PA Departments of Health, Environmental Protection and Agriculture held a public meeting in New Garden Township to present the findings of an air quality study conducted in the township. Residents attended in person and virtually to learn about the results of the study, which measured hydrogen sulfide in the air. This study was done in response to a request from my office after residents complained of significant metal corrosion on their properties and health concerns possibly originating from mushroom farming and composting sites in the area .

The study found that the highest hourly levels of hydrogen sulfide may have led to short-term respiratory effects in sensitive individuals, those with asthma for example, in Landenberg and West Grove. The PA DOH reported that longer exposure to hydrogen sulfide is unlikely to lead to long-term health effects. The highest hydrogen sulfide levels at monitoring sites were reported to occur on Tuesdays and Fridays and were highest during the midnight to early-morning hours during the fall season. According to the Department, hydrogen sulfide does not cause the corrosion residents reported.

At the meeting, the PA Department of Health stated they would consider data currently being collected in a separate study being done by West Chester University and New Garden Township at the conclusion of that study.

The PA Department of Agriculture pledged to work with residents, townships, elected officials and the mushroom industry to update best management practices, which have not been updated in numerous years, to address all environmental and health concerns. I will continue to work with these state agencies to ensure the safety of all of our residents, workforce, the environment and industries. This county is the best place to live in the entire commonwealth, so any action taken has to work for all of us.

You can view the full study and results [here](#) and [here](#).

Residents can submit health complaints [online here](#) or by calling 717-787-3350.

Residents with environmental concerns should contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 484-250-5900.