

# Vote Yes on HB477

## Stop Sludge Dumping

**Untreated industrial waste is being dumped in rural Georgia as a soil amendment, threatening human and environmental health.**



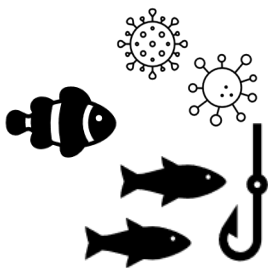
### What is a Soil Amendment?

Soil amendments are additives that change the physical properties of the soil, particularly its texture. They can be used to reduce erosion, improve water retention, or change the pH of the soil. Proper soil amendments improve soil health. Soil amendments are not fertilizers, which add nutrient value to the soil. The Georgia Department of Agriculture regulates soil amendments.

### PROBLEM: Current Regulations are Incomplete, Unenforced, and Abused.

Due to unclear and unenforced regulations, untreated industrial sludge waste is being spread across rural Georgia. Untreated waste attracts swarms of flies and smells horrible. The health of rural Georgians is at risk, and so is the livability of their properties.

**Waste from humans, slaughterhouses, and grease traps are all examples of legal and beneficial soil amendments when properly treated. But when dumped untreated, these substances negatively impact human and environmental health.**



### Environmental Health Impact

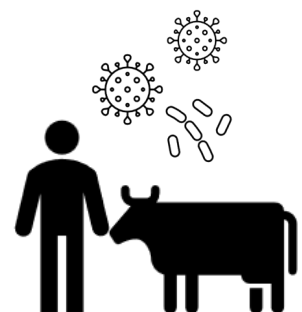
Untreated industrial waste pollutes Georgia's waterways with an abundance of nutrients. This causes:

- Harmful algal blooms
- Oxygen depletion
- Water temperature changes
- Fish kills
- Groundwater contamination

### Human Health Impact

Untreated industrial waste contains many harmful substances.

- Pathogens like *Salmonella*
- Heavy metals like Cadmium
- High amounts of antibiotics, causing harmful antibiotic resistance
- PFAS, a class of chemicals with emerging human health concerns



SOLUTION: In Order to Protect Georgia Communities and Ensure the Usefulness of Soil Amendments, Georgia Law Must Require the Following:

**Be a Farm**

- Legitimate soil amendments used by actual farmers are highly likely to be beneficial.



**Be Transparent**

- Require permits and records be available to the public.
- This includes where, when, and how much of a product was applied, and its content label.

**Let Locals Help**

- Give local governments the ability to enforce soil amendment laws.
- This will help overburdened Department of Agriculture staff with enforcement.

**Keep Workers Safe**

- Ensure compliance with OSHA standards to ensure soil amendments are free from harmful contaminants.



# VOTE YES ON HB 477

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Leverett

Questions? Please contact:

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**GEORGIA**  
**WATER**  
**COALITION**