



February 27, 2023

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committee
Re: HB 847 Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Our members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

HB 847: Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup

We support HB 847. Anaerobic digestion is an important tool in turning organic "waste" materials into useful products. The Work Group established by this bill, with its focus on increasing the use of digestate created at anaerobic digestion facilities, will help create a solid foundation for organics material management in Maryland. This Work Group will build upon the accomplishments of the 2021 Act. We look forward to seeing its establishment.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle".

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director