



To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
House Environmental Matters Committee
Date: March 11, 2013
Re: House Bill 1440 (Recycling - Composting Facilities)

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) represents public sector recycling program managers, private sector collectors and processors of recyclables, as well as companies that use recyclables as a raw material in making new products and other supporters of recycling in Maryland.

We are proud of the strides Maryland has taken in the last two decades in increasing its statewide recycling rate. As a result of these efforts, and the leadership shown by the Maryland legislature, we are increasing recycling, lowering Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions, reducing disposal costs and creating a healthier environment and a stronger economy.

We are writing today to express our support for House Bill 1440 (Recycling - Composting Facilities) because it reflects the central recommendation of the study group convened by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in 2012. House Bill 1440 provides legislative authorization to MDE to create a predictable regulatory framework for establishing more composting facilities in Maryland, especially facilities involving the processing of food residuals. Organic materials comprise a significant portion of the State's solid waste stream, and House Bill 1440 offers an opportunity to address this in a much more comprehensive, positive way than ever before.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Peter Houstle at phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, 301-725-2508 or MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions regarding our position on this bill or other recycling issues you would like to discuss.

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

Sincerely,

Tanya M. Adams, MRN President
Recycling Coordinator
Cecil County Solid Waste Management Division
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