



To: Maryland General Assembly
- Senate Finance Committee
- Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
- House Economic Matters Committee
Date: March 19, 2013
Re: Senate Bill 799/House Bill 1266 - Landfill Diversion - Municipal Solid Waste Portfolio Standard

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.

The Maryland Recycling Network supports continued movement in the State away from waste disposal and toward waste prevention and recycling. In 2012, however, the State legislature approved legislation increasing mandatory recycling rates for counties and setting a new voluntary Statewide waste diversion goal of 60% by the year 2020. This legislation followed a comprehensive study of recycling and source reduction convened by MDE in 2011 at the behest of the State legislature. Therefore, the Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) does not see the necessity or advisability of enacting a new solid waste management approach as suggested by Senate Bill 799/House Bill 1266.

The Maryland Recycling Network continues to monitor other legislative and regulatory developments in an attempt to advance the 3 "R's." Furthermore, MRN advocates implementation of three recommendations of the 2011 MDE study group regarding recycling and source reduction:

- increased statewide outreach for recycling and source reduction;
- formation of a workgroup, convened by MDE, to reassess the source reduction credit system currently in place, with the possibility of increasing the available credit; and
- greater involvement by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development with recycling market development.

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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