



To: House Environmental Matters Committee

Re: HB 1081 Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Facilities - Yard Waste and Food Residuals

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.

We appreciate the desire of the bill's authors to increase the use of composting and anaerobic digestion in the state of Maryland. These processes offer an invaluable tool in managing organic scrap materials and in producing either a compost product or producing energy and a compostable digestate. However, we have serious concerns over details of this legislation, concerns that affect the practical application of this bill were it to become law. We are eager to work with the author of this bill to improve this legislation but cannot endorse the bill at this time.

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 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 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-effective and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "G. Evans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gemma Evans, MRN President
Recycling Coordinator
Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services

Maryland Recycling Network
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