



**To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
House Economic Matters Committee**

Re: HB240/SB56 Maryland Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force

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.

Members of the Maryland Recycling Network were honored to participate on both recent legislatively-initiated Task Forces that investigated ways to improve solid waste management, recycling and composting in the state of Maryland. We supported successful legislation in 2012 that raised the recycling goals for Maryland's counties. We participated in the workgroup that helped draft Maryland's proposed composting regulations. As such, we question the need for another task force on improving our ability to divert wastes from disposal. Nonetheless, if such a task force is created, we would be honored to be included in the organizations that comprise the membership of this task force. With our extensive involvement in helping manage and improve recycling and composting programs throughout Maryland, we believe we would be a significantly positive addition to this task force.

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".

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