



**To: House Environmental Matters Committee  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**Re: HB 878 & SB 814 State Highway Administration - Compost and Compost-Based Products**

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 strongly support this legislation. Composting offers a positive way to manage organics such as food and yard scrap. This legislation creates a viable market for products produced at facilities composting those organic products. These markets are essential to increasing Maryland's ability to divert more materials from disposal in a cost-efficient fashion.

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](mailto: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