



To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: HB0603 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.

Given that organics represent one of the largest components of the waste stream, the Maryland Recycling Network fully supports efforts to expand the availability and use of food residuals composting and anaerobic digestion facilities in the state, however, we have serious concerns with several aspects of the bill, especially the yard waste requirements. In particular, we are concerned that the bill may not mesh well with the final regulations implementing the 2013 Composting Bill ([HB1440](#)) which the Maryland Department of the Environment anticipates publishing in late spring or early summer of this year. And last but not least, we are concerned with the highly prescriptive nature of the bill which allows little, if any, flexibility for the counties and municipalities to achieve the goal of the bill in a time- and cost-effective manner.

We strongly recommend that consideration of this bill be held until after the final regulations implementing the 2013 Composting Bill ([HB 1440](#)) have been published at which time we welcome the opportunity to work with the bill's sponsors to craft language that will complement and advance the initiatives established by HB 1440.

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,

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