To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committee  
Re: HB 510 Composting - Food Waste - Acceptance for Final Disposal

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 are writing to share our general support for the spirit of HB 510 Composting - Food Waste - Acceptance for Final Disposal however, we offer the following recommendations regarding the proposed legislation:

1. Add anaerobic digestion (“AD”) as an additional alternative for food waste processing.
2. Add a provision if the food waste or yard waste is contaminated and not acceptable at a compost or AD facility, that the material can be delivered to a refuse disposal system.
3. Reconcile the discrepancy in the 9-1724 provision, which is laid out for yard waste, but not food waste. The provision is that yard waste “may” rather than “shall” be taken to a compost facility. “May” would appear to open the option that the material could go to a refuse disposal system.
4. Is the issue around which this bill been designed to address, i.e. haulers taking compostable materials to a landfill rather than the appropriate composting or AD facility, already covered under Title 7, subtitle 1, section 7-104 – General Theft Provisions (f) Inference of intention or knowledge?
5. Should the entity or individual who purchased the service be responsible for ensuring the service is rendered as promised?

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 via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - 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,

Peter M. Houstle  
Executive Director

Maryland Recycling Network  
www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org * 888-496-3196