To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committee  
Re: HB0109 Environment - Expanded Polystyrene Food Service 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 are writing to share our general support for the spirit of HB 109 - Environment - Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products, however, we have two recommendations regarding the proposed legislation as follows:

1. That any authorized substitutes for polystyrene should be reusable, compostable or recyclable and, if compostable or recyclable that there is a feasible market for this material; and

2. That the state should expand the availability of composting facilities as needed to accommodate the increased demand generated by this requirement.

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