



February 11, 2020

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees
Re: HB 296 Environment - Single-Use Plastic Straws - Use in a Food Service Business**

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 296 - Environment - Single-Use Plastic Straws - Use in a Food Service Business, however, we recommend limiting the specific requirements of the bill pending a full review by the proposed Single-Use Products Workgroup referenced in HB 209 - Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act. This could allow for a more comprehensive, sustainable and ultimately more effective process by which to address the overarching problem presented by plastic pollution of our environment.

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- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle".

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director