



February 21, 2020

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
Re: HB 589 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - 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.

We are writing to share our general support for the spirit of HB 589 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, with the anticipation that greater clarity will be provided for 9-1724.1.(A) (2) (I) HAS THE CAPACITY TO ACCEPT AND PROCESS THE FOOD RESIDUALS; AND (II) IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE FOOD RESIDUALS FOR RECYCLING. Specifically, we understand that the Maryland Department of the Environment will specify guidance regarding standards for capacity/quality of processing facility and minimum volume requirements for generators. We also understand there will be an amendment proposed that price must be competitive with disposal cost or generator will be allowed to apply for a waiver.

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,

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director