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BILL NO.: **HB 1452**

TITLE: Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling –
Recycling Market Development

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 4, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1452 – Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development. This bill would establish a process for the Office of Recycling to create market incentives for using products made from recycled materials.

County Executive Olszewski has championed the fight for a sustainable future and has worked to make Baltimore County a leader in environmental protection and sustainability. Baltimore County therefore supports efforts on the State level to address the damage done by overflowing landfills. That damage cannot be understated – microplastics dissolve in our water and enter our food, animals suffocate on waste that sits out in the open, and nature is cleared to make way for more waste. With population growth threatening our waste removal resources, the County’s need to reuse viable resources grows with every passing year.

The recycling business is, however, a business, and the demand for recyclable materials is essential to their production. This legislation would aid in creating such a demand by requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Office of Recycling to develop market strategies that aid in the promotion of purchasing materials made from recycled waste. This includes promoting their use by government entities, developing and suggesting market incentives, and studying the current use of recycled materials in Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1452. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.