



**TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

**HB1070 SOLID WASTE DIVERSION AND DISPOSAL AND ON-FARM COMPOSTING
AND COMPOST USE**

POSITION: FAVORABLE

MARCH 2, 2022

KEITH LOSOYA, FOUNDER - WASTE NEUTRAL, KEITH@WASTENEUTRAL.COM

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

My name is Keith Losoya and I come to you today from Waste Neutral, a residential and commercial food scrap hauler based out of Baltimore. Waste Neutral, started hauling organics in 2009 and is currently the largest hauler of food scraps in the Baltimore metro area. To that end, we have diverted close to seventy million pounds (35,000 tons) away from landfills and incineration: towards composting facilities to benefit our soil, air, water, and local economy.

With the advent of 2021 law HB264 going into effect in 2023 this type of funding will be critical to expand small, local infrastructure and education to meet the projected high volumes of food waste that will be diverted in the years to come. Over the years; in working with businesses, schools, compost processors, urban and rural farms we recognize the struggles they face even on a relatively small scale. This funding will provide the education, equipment and general infrastructure management to expand their organic waste diversion efforts.

As a commercial hauler we are no stranger to the miscellaneous environmental fees that accompany our standard tipping rates. We feel the surcharge proposed in this bill is modest compared to the assistance benefits the proceeds will provide. Furthermore, these grants will create good paying jobs with dignity for their communities, while improving the soil health to provide high quality local produce for seasons to come.

Given this and the testimonies of my fellow supporters, I think it comes as no surprise that I would like to voice my backing for HB1070. Without the funding support to assist with the challenges of managing the higher volumes of compostable waste feedstock next year, the small businesses and economically challenged urban and rural farming communities will struggle. Please move forward with HB1070 for our environment and local economy.

Keith Losoya

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Losoya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Principal Partner
Waste Neutral