



House Bill 1070

Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 2, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1070 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would create several grant funds to encourage composting, environmental stewardship, and recycling.

Addressing the seriousness of climate change will require bold investments in new solutions around many of our public services. How to handle waste in the future looms as one of the most prominent questions. HB 1070 would seek to invest in new programs meant to address how counties take waste and turn this liability into a resource. Most of the proposed grant programs reduce waste from the food supply and divert food waste to be reused in food production. Counties praise the vision of HB 1070 but have concerns about the proposed funding mechanism for the proposed programs.

Counties recognize the necessity of investing in new environmental technologies and methods to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. HB 1070 advances these goals by establishing grant funds for counties to access. Funding for these new programs will come from a newly established Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge. This surcharge of \$5 per ton will be levied on owners or operators of refuse disposal facilities, which effectively translates to counties. Instead of using a new pool of resources to make meaningful change, this funding mechanism will draw on already constrained resources from the counties and into these funds.

The vast majority of HB 1070 supports innovation in local waste management. Unfortunately, the proposed surcharge could drastically cut the effectiveness of county resources and significantly reduce the impact of the bill. Counties ask for a reconsideration of the fee structure so that the needed funds aren't taken from already limited county resources. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 1070 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.