

March 6, 2023

House Environment and Transportation Committee



Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Compost Crew (CC) supports a favorable report of Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use bill (HB 1139).

CC is a local mission-driven food scrap recycling and composting business that has been helping to make food waste recycling convenient and impactful since 2011. We currently service over 8,000 homes, businesses, and municipalities in the Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. region, diverting over one million pounds of food scraps each month. In addition, we partner with local farms to recycle food scraps and make high-quality local compost, which enriches the soil, supports local food production and benefits the environment. In making an organic soil amendment, farms do not need to rely on inorganic chemical inputs much of which are currently in short supply and exorbitant costs.

A solid waste disposal surcharge would be beneficial. Our goal is to build organics recycling infrastructure to support recycling and environmental objectives while benefiting farms. Farmers are interested in locally-made, high-quality, and economical compost to increase crop yield and the longevity of their farm land. However, purchasing compost can be difficult since there are not many local options and shipping high-quality compost in bulk is expensive. In addition, on-farm composting is financially-prohibitive and time-consuming: systems require site improvements, equipment, regulatory hurdles, and trained staff to be run properly.

We're competing with the traditional trash industry, and we need to work hard to build a professionally managed, economically viable system. Anything that makes trash more expensive allows us to increase collections and composting of food waste. This Bill would boost demand & infrastructure that would help farmers and healthy soils. In addition, this bill would help restaurants and other food waste generators participate in food scrap recycling programs.

We respectfully request a favorable report of HB1139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristie Blumer".

Kristie Blumer  
Senior Director of Composting, Compost Crew