



March 08, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1139 - Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (Department or MDE) has reviewed House Bill 1139 and would like to provide the following information.

House Bill 1139 would establish a solid waste \$2 per ton disposal surcharge imposed on refuse disposal systems to fund a grant program. The grants are to be used to assist recipients with the costs of developing, implementing, or expanding equipment, infrastructure, and education relating to: (1) reducing the amount of solid waste generated in the state; (2) reusing, repairing, recycling, and composting solid waste; (3) edible food rescue; (4) on-farm composting; and (5) minimizing illegal dumping.

House Bill 1139 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDA) to consult with MDE in its administration of the On-Farm Composting and Compost Use Grant Fund. Also, by January 1, 2026 and every 2 years thereafter, MDE would need to adjust the solid waste disposal surcharge to match the consumer price index. The Department, in consultation with MDA, will also need to report annually to the General Assembly beginning in December 2025 on the grants awarded under this bill, including the number of grants awarded and their impact on job creation, waste reduction, and the quantity of compost used by farmers. Lastly, the bill does not include enforcement provisions for MDE if a county does not remit the fees collected to the Comptroller.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 1139 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-453-3235 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach
Deputy Director
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

Cc: The Honorable Regina Boyce
Tyler Abbott, Director, Land and Material Administration