

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Mary Washington

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter

DATE: February 27, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 1088 – *Environment – Public Participation in the Permitting Process – Alterations*

The Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** Senate Bill 1088.

MDSWA appreciates the intent of this bill to promote environmental justice (EJ) and ensure that already overburdened communities do not suffer additional harm. MDSWA members already comply with the State's existing EJ requirements and support the important policy objectives of such laws and regulations. However, this legislation seeks to expand who has standing for the purposes of the judicial review of permit determinations made by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), changes the process for determining EJ Score, using the Department's EJ Tool, thereby increasing the workload of MDE without any justification, and expands notice requirements for permit applications that will slow the permitting process without justification.

The State has prioritized EJ through various initiatives in the last several years and is working to strengthen the current framework. Senate Bill 1088 does not align with the current efforts by MDE and affected stakeholders to address EJ, will divert and complicate the work of MDE in achieving those objectives, and could result in unintended consequences for the very communities this legislation appears to intend to protect. For these reasons, MDSWA requests an unfavorable report.

For more information:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000