

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 Regina T. Boyce

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

DATE: March 1, 2024

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – House Bill 1318 – *Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established*

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 submit this **letter of information** for House Bill 1318.

House Bill 1318, as amended, proposes to establish an *On-Farm Organic Diversion and Recycling Grant Program* administered by Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the *Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program* to be administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The bill creates a *Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund* to fund the programs. As amended, the bill removes the solid waste disposal surcharge as the funding mechanism for the programs, which was strongly opposed by MDSWA. A statewide surcharge combined with multiple local jurisdiction surcharges was neither operationally possible to implement nor a funding mechanism that aligned with the objectives of the legislation.

MDSWA's original opposition was not related to the intent of this legislation, which is to identify ways to offset the costs of developing and implementing on-farm composting and compost use, food waste prevention, and food rescue projects. With the removal of the surcharge provisions, MDSWA is no longer opposed to the legislation and looks forward to working with MDE and MDA to achieve its objectives in a more effective manner.

For more information:

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