

Sustainable Materials Management America (SM²A)

Senator Katie Fry Hester

RE: Support for SB56

Dear Senator Hester,

On behalf the large and small company supporters of Sustainable Materials Manufacturing America (SM²A) we want to let you know of support for SB56.

SM²A is adhoc group of companies that manufacture products from what were once considered “waste” and turn them into products that can be sold in Maryland and across the country while driving economic development and job creation. We do not believe there is any such thing as waste, only marketable materials that have not found their next use.

We support SB 56 because it creates a Circular Economy Incentve Program, that has the purpose of awarding grants or other incentives to develop methods for upcycling and remanufacturing materials in the State that would otherwise be disposed of. It also defines recycling to mean any process in which recyclable materials are collected, separated, or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. In addition, it recognizes that the purpose of the fund would be to “Develop methods for upcycling and remanufacturing materials that would otherwise be disposed of.”

This legislation could create a foundation for the creation of a Close Looped Clean Energy Sustainable Materials Manufacturing Parks in Maryland that could address:

- End-of-life EV batteries
- Outdated and damaged windmill blades
- Solar Panels after useful life or damaged
- Port Sediments and Construction Materials

Senator Hester, we regret we were not able to provide these comments for the record as of the deadline, last night at 6PM, but we wanted you to know of our support for SB56 during the hearing this afternoon. We believe this bill can help take important steps in improving the environment and foster economic development and job growth in Maryland by identifying opportunities and cultivating innovative sustainable material manufacturing projects and activities.

We thank you for this opportunity to share our support for SB56.

Sincerely,



Steven B. Hellem

**Sustainable Materials Management America
(SM²A)**

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