

BDC - 2024 - HB 1318 - Solid Waste Disposal Surcha

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FAV

**To: The Honorable Brian Feldman
Education, Energy and Environment Committee**

From: Bioenergy Devco

**Subject: HB 1318, Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food
Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs –
Establishment**

Date: March 26, 2024

Position: Favorable

Bioenergy Devco supports House Bill 1318, Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Establishment.

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), an international leader in anaerobic digestion solutions with over 24 years of experience. BDC’s exceptional team of engineers, microbial experts, biologists, chemists, agronomists, construction designers and facility managers are dedicated to delivering an environmentally sound solution that creates a true source of renewable, carbon-negative energy as well as a high nutrient soil amendment.

BDC’s anaerobic digester in Jessup recycles approximately 130 tons of organic waste annually. By diverting this material from the waste stream, we are helping to address the environmental, social, and economic issues that result from existing waste industry practices.

House Bill 1318 establishes the On–Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on–farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue. This bill also creates the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund and requires interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund. Under the bill, the Department of the Environment will award grants to eligible entities for infrastructure, programs, and education that reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food in the State.

This is not a new concept. In 2008, the Maryland General Assembly passed The Empower Maryland Act. This legislation imposed a similar fee on utilities in Maryland. Just like this bill, those fees were used to develop the necessary infrastructure to accommodate renewable energy and energy efficiency technology. As we look to our



future it is critical that we act swiftly in developing the organics recycling infrastructure that will be needed to accomplish our climate mitigation goals.

Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1318.

Please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992, if you have any questions.

HB1318_CleanWaterAction_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Ranson

Position: FAV



HB1318: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 26, 2024

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action urges a favorable report on HB1318.

Maryland has commendable goals to reduce food waste and increase organic recycling. These efforts have significant co-benefits, improving food security for our residents, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food rotting in landfills or burning in incinerators, and enables our farmers to diversify their income and reduce climate-polluting synthetic fertilizers. But we know that a major limiting factor for the expansion of infrastructure and programs reducing food waste and recycling organics is cost. Maryland has no dedicated funding streams for reducing and diverting food waste.

Maryland has made great strides reducing methane emissions from landfills, with more stringent methane regulations on landfills. Controlling the amount of methane from a landfill is great, but another effective strategy is to reduce the amount of methane-producing organic waste from entering the landfill in the first place.

HB1318 seeks to food waste and organic diversion through three grant programs:

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program (MDE)

This fund will give MDE the ability to fund infrastructure, programs, and education that reduces, rescues, and diverts wasted food in the state. Examples of these could be rescuing food to feed people or animals, like expanding cold storage or connecting farmers with suitable food waste generators.

On-Farm Organics Diversion and Composting Grant Program (MDA)

While farmers may be interested in generating their own compost or using compost, the practice does require specialized equipment, training, and has other costs. These grants will help defray those start-up costs and enable MDA to better support farmers as they seek to incorporate compost and organic recycling into their operations.

School Waste Reduction and Composting Program (MSDE)

These grants were created in 2022 and funded in 2023. These grants enable schools to create programs and infrastructure for food rescue (like share tables), food donation, and composting to reduce school waste and promote sustainability.

Ultimately, these grants need to be funded. As amended in the House, HB1318 establishes the grant programs but does not allocate funding or create a dedicated funding source. Funding practices like cold storage for food rescue, on-farm compost, school grants, and upcycling through a modest \$2 per ton

surcharge on waste disposed of at landfills and incinerators would provide tangible benefits and fund Maryland's goals and its unfunded programs, like school grants for food waste reduction and composting, which passed in 2022 but requires an annual appropriation.

Thank you and we urge a favorable report,

Emily Ranson
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org

HB1318 - CASA Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jose Coronado Flores

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1318
Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

Senate - EEE

Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

March 26th, 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of HB1318**, because it is important legislation that will address the burden and quantity of food waste and solid waste. In our transition to an emissionless and sustainable state, it is critical to offer concrete solutions to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and trash incinerators. The working-class immigrant community that comprises our membership acknowledges the intertwined relationship between food and solid waste, emissions caused by the burning or landfilling of this waste, the associated emissions that result from transporting this waste, and the local burden of pollution in our communities.

Two components of this bill that I want to highlight are the Reuse, Recycle, and Remanufacture Fund and the Food Waste Reduction and Diversion Grants Program. These funds create grants to be procured by a variety of entities with the goal of funding projects that aim to reduce solid and food waste through community projects and education. The immigrant community, especially individuals who are coming from sustainable rural communities, wants to bring and engage in our best practices of zero-waste and composting here in our new communities.

We envision communities that compost their food waste and utilize the produced fertilizer for community gardens where carriers of sustainability wisdom lead and execute these projects. Furthermore, these grant programs also promote edible food waste diversion. According to the MD Food Bank, 1/3 Marylanders are food insecure, yet MDE reports that much of the over 1 million tons of food waste produced in 2021 could have been eaten. Food is a gift that some people struggle to obtain, yet many of us carelessly waste it.

For these reasons, CASA urges a favorable report.

Jose Coronado-Flores

Research and Policy Analyst

jcoronado@wearecasa.org, 240-393-7840

HB 1318 MDE SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

House Bill 1318

***Environment - Waste Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs -
Established***

Position: Support
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: March 26, 2024
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1318.

Bill Summary

As proposed, HB 1318 would establish the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program (Program). The Program would award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) would administer the Program, in consultation with MDE. The bill would also establish the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program to be administered by MDE, in consultation with MDA.

Position Rationale

MDE supports HB 1318 in concept as it will help establish a grant program within MDE and MDA for organics recycling infrastructure. Grant funding is important to help scale organics recycling in the State while decreasing the amount of waste going to landfills. However, in order for a grant program to be successful, it is critical for funding to be allocated.

Should this bill pass, MDE would look forward to working with the Maryland General Assembly and affected stakeholders in identifying a permanent funding source to support the referenced grant programs over the 2024 Interim.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1318.

HB 1318_MDSierraClub_fav_26Mar2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Martha Ainsworth

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter
P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: HB 1318: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 26, 2024

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges the Committee to support HB1318. Reducing waste and its disposal in landfills and incinerators is a key strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change. However, success at diverting waste depends critically on having in place the infrastructure for expanded composting and recycling. It requires investments in infrastructure by local government, farmers, businesses, schools, nonprofits, and other local entities. HB1318 would generate the resources for these needed investments, while encouraging waste reduction.

The bill would create a Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund to finance three grant programs aimed at increasing waste diversion, recycling, and composting infrastructure, financed by a \$2 per ton surcharge on waste disposal. Solid waste surcharges ranging from 50 cents per ton to \$13 per ton at landfills, incinerators, and transfer stations have been funding recycling and waste reduction programs in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, as well as in local jurisdictions, since as early as the 1980's. These investments pay for themselves by reducing the amount of waste disposed. In Maryland, the grants could total more than \$14 million per year to support local governments, small businesses, non-profits, schools, farmers, and others in their efforts to advance food waste prevention, rescue, recycling, and composting projects and infrastructure.

Earlier versions of this bill were introduced in 2022 (HB1070) and 2023 (HB1139). The current bill incorporates changes based on discussions with the Maryland Department of Environment and the Department of Agriculture to ensure that the bill fills programmatic gaps and is implementable by the agencies.

Waste diversion investments are critical, and a waste disposal surcharge has proven to be a highly effective way of funding them across the country. The Sierra Club respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1318.

Ben Fischler
Chapter Zero Waste Team
brf57@yahoo.com

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

HB 1318 - CBF - FAV - EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1318

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established

Date: March 26, 2024

To: Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1318 which establishes the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund, a special fund administered by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), to support the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program administered by the Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program administered by MDE. Money credited to the Fund is intended to supplement, not replace, other funding sources that may support these programs.

Food waste affects climate change.

The diversion of food waste from incinerators and landfills through composting helps minimize the amount of carbon dioxide and methane released into the atmosphere by these traditional methods of waste management. Lower greenhouse gas emissions improve air quality, reduce impacts to human health, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Soil health is key to the future of agriculture.

Well-managed composting of waste adds biologically rich material to soils, feeding essential micro-organisms and fungi that improve soil health and enhance production of healthy, nutritious food. Healthier soils increase water holding capacity, facilitate nutrient cycling, and reduce soil loss, helping farmers maintain their land and minimizing risks to water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.

This legislation will improve soil health, help fight the effects of climate change, and transition Maryland to a more effective, equitable, and environmentally sound waste management system. The bill, as introduced, would have supported the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund with a modest surcharge on solid waste disposal. While CBF is disappointed that provision was struck from the bill, we fully support the creation of the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant programs and are hopeful the Moore Administration and General Assembly will find resources to fund them moving forward.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1318.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

HB 1318 - Letter of Support.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Jones

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary

Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading
Industry

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

mda.maryland.gov

410.841.5885 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5846 Fax

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: March 26, 2024

BILL NUMBER: HB 1318

SHORT TITLE: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

MDA POSITION: LETTER OF SUPPORT

House Bill 1318 would establish the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program (“Program”) at the Department of Agriculture (MDA), a novel and innovative new initiative to further support Maryland farmers.

Maryland farmers are the original stewards of the land. As our farms look to diversify their operations while also supporting the state’s climate change goals, the diversion and recovery of food waste for proper composting will support the state in achieving its organic recycling goals. HB 1318 would establish a revenue source for farm and farm organizations and other stakeholders that may receive the materials, and advance the land application of compost materials that when properly managed and applied can increase carbon and soil health benefits.

HB 1318 allows MDA and MDE (MD Department of the Environment) to coordinate to administer the Program to provide the grant to a wide range of eligible persons, including:

- Traditional farmers and urban farmers
- Soil Conservation Districts
- Nonprofits, small businesses, and consortiums

Eligible projects are those that:

- Reduce the amount of wasted food generated
- Rescue edible food for redistribution
- Recover wasted food as animal feed (registered by MDA)

- Compost or recycle food residuals
- Transition from single-use food serviceware to durable/reusable food serviceware

In addition, as amended, House Bill 1318 would increase the estimated annual revenue that shall be used for administrative costs from “no more than 10%” to “no more than 25%”, which will assist the Departments in covering the additional administrative costs associated with implementing this program.

Thank you for your consideration. MDA welcomes additional discussion or questions from the Committee and requests a favorable report on HB 1318.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at Rachel.Jones2@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5886.

HB1318 - Boyce Testimony (Senate).pdf

Uploaded by: Regina T. Boyce

Position: FAV

REGINA T. BOYCE
Legislative District 43A
Baltimore City

—
Vice Chair
Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees
Housing and Real Property

Chair
Natural Resources, Agriculture
and Open Space



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 26, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce presenting **HB1318 - Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established.**

HB1318 establishes the **Wasted Food Reduction & Diversion Grant Program** (administered by the Department of Agriculture) and **On-Farm Organics Diversion & Recycling Grant Program** (administered by the Department of the Environment) for **reducing, rescuing, composting, and recycling wasted food**, along with **on-farm organics recycling and compost use**.

In addition funds from these grants support the School Waste Reduction and Composting Program with a portion of the funds.

Maryland requires expanded access to and capacity for food waste reduction and diversion from disposal, benefiting local communities. A lack of funding is a significant obstacle to developing and expanding food waste reduction infrastructure and programs. Recommendations from the Maryland Food Systems Resiliency Council highlight the need for investments in food waste reduction infrastructure and education.

Programs Supported by the Surcharge:

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program (48%): Supports projects, infrastructure, and education to reduce food waste and transition away from single-use food serviceware.

On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program(48%): Assists farmers in food preservation, organics recycling, and compost use.

School Waste Reduction and Composting Program (4%): Supports county boards and public schools in reducing food waste and composting food scraps.

Various entities including local governments, educational agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit businesses, and farmers are eligible for funding. Priority will be given to projects benefiting local communities, serving overburdened or underserved communities, and following best management practices.

I thank the Committee for their time and consideration for support of HB1318.

Sincerely,

Regina T. Boyce

Regina T. Boyce

ILSR - HB1318 Senate Hearing Testimony - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Sophia Jones

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

HB 1318 – Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs

Position: Favorable

March 26, 2024 Hearing

Sophia Jones, Composting for Community Policy Lead, sjones@ilsr.org

[Institute for Local Self-Reliance](https://www.ilsr.org/), 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036

Dear Members of the Committee,

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) supports HB 1318 and encourages the committee to pass this bill to establish grant programs to reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food from disposal in Maryland.

Maryland's stagnant recycling rate, high landfill emissions, shrinking landfill capacity, and increasing demand for alternatives to food waste disposal indicate the need for investment into wasted food diversion in a way that benefits local communities, NOW.

HB 1318 establishes two grant programs to provide support for infrastructure, programs, and education on wasted food diversion in Maryland through the (1) Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program, the (2) On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program. ILSR worked closely with the Maryland Departments of Environment and Agriculture on the details of the two grant programs to ensure they filled programmatic gaps and addressed Maryland's needs.

We are disappointed in the removal of the funding mechanism (\$2/ton surcharge on waste disposed) from the original version of HB 1318, especially as this mechanism is currently successful in at least 8 other states. Hopefully the State will seek federal funding to fill the gap until a funding mechanism is established. With funding, these grant programs will keep organics out of landfills and incinerators, where harmful greenhouse gases are produced, and help move Maryland toward its goal of 60% emissions reductions by 2031 and net-zero in 2045. We strongly support the intentions behind the grant programs and hope that appropriate funding can be established in the near future.

Given adequate funding, the grant programs established would not only support projects and infrastructure to rescue food, recycle organics, and reduce foodservice waste, but also the necessary education, technical assistance, labor, and wages to make projects effective. Priority funding is dedicated to projects that directly benefit local Maryland communities, particularly those overburdened and underserved, by addressing community needs, providing education, creating green jobs, providing living wages, and preventing environmental contamination.

Expansion of composting and organics recycling infrastructure and the availability of high-quality, non-contaminated compost is crucial to supporting Maryland farmers in building and maintaining healthy soils to increase soil organic matter, improve water and nutrient cycling, and grow healthy food, contributing to cleaner Maryland watersheds, increased resilience to extreme weather, and stronger Maryland food systems.

We urge the Committee to support HB 1318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sophia Jones", written in black ink.

Sophia Jones

HB1318 Support Testimony - Wasted Food Reduction a

Uploaded by: Tom Taylor

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in Support of HB1318 – Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established

March 26, 2024

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

I am offering this testimony to urge the committee to support HB1318, and give it a favorable report.

This legislation would establish a fund and grant programs to support food waste reduction and diversion efforts in Maryland. This legislation is needed to support a variety of food waste recovery, organics recycling, and composting policies already in place, but which lack sufficient funding to make significant progress in implementation.

As a community volunteer active in food waste reduction efforts, I can testify first-hand to the great difficulty in finding funding and resources to establish organics recycling and composting programs in our communities. While I am disappointed that that the funding mechanism in the original legislation has been removed, this bill will be a step forward in overcoming this obstacle.

Expansion of composting and organics recycling infrastructure and the availability of high-quality compost is crucial to supporting Maryland farmers in building and maintaining healthy soils. This, in turn, will lead to improved water and nutrient cycling, healthier food, and cleaner watersheds.

By keeping food waste out of landfills and incinerators, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this legislation also will help Maryland reach its emissions reduction goals.

Please support HB1318 and give this legislation a favorable report. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor
11-G Laurel Hill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-513-9524

Testimony in support of HB 1318.V2.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Lansing

Position: FWA



"Cultivating a collaborative, sustainable, and equitable food system for all Maryland communities."

March 25, 2024
2024 SESSION SUPPORT TESTIMONY
HB 1318: Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

HB 1318: Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
POSITION: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1318 – with amendment

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record **in support of House Bill 1318 with an amendment that in 9–1725.3. Section (E), "A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT"** should be included as **"ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM."**

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council. The Food System Resiliency Council was established by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session to bring together 33 appointed council members from across the state, all with different points of entry and expertise to work toward a more resilient food system and address the food insecurity crisis due to COVID-19.

One of the key mandates of this Council is to develop equity and sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of Maryland's food system. In the November 2023 Food System Resiliency Council Report to the Maryland Legislature, we recommended increasing the capacity for diverted organic materials. Currently, minimal facilities are available for food scrap diversion. Increasing food diversion and education on food waste reduction will help increase our food system resiliency and strengthen the food waste recovery infrastructure, building on emerging practices already established in the State. Food waste occur across the supply chain. It is important that legislation addresses problems throughout the process, with resources allocated to organic diversion, composting, food rescue, education, source separation, upcycling, and exploring linkage between food waste and hunger.

A first step in increased food resiliency can be achieved is by **passing HB 1318**, which will establish a grant fund to provide infrastructure, programming, and education resources for on-farm food waste composting as well as preventing food waste and increasing food rescue efforts. The passing of HB 1318 would create an On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue. The program will also create the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund to establish the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program in the Department of the Environment to award grants for infrastructure, programs, and education that



"Cultivating a collaborative, sustainable, and equitable food system for all Maryland communities."

reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food. These two programs would be not have dedicated funding, which hopefully will be added in future funding cycles.

Over one-third of the food produced in the United States is never eaten, wasting the calories and production resources used to grow food that could have fed more than 150 million people each year. The wasted food comprises 1/4 of our landfill content. It is stated by USEPA that reducing 50% of the food waste going to US landfills would be the equivalent of eliminating the greenhouse gas emissions from 21 coal-fired power plants or 15 million homes' energy use for a year.

Passing HB 1318 will benefit Maryland's Food System, create resources for important food system resiliency initiatives throughout the supply chain, and increase our circular bioeconomy. Each year, 119 billion lbs. of food is wasted in the US, equivalent to 1 lb./person/day, 130 billion meals, and at an economic value is \$408 billion per year. With 13.5 million US households being food-insecure at some time, there is a need to reduce this food waste impact. The HB 1318 legislation will create the programs needed to execute these important initiatives.

While the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council supports the passage of HB 1318, we do have one proposed amendment and one item of consideration for the committee. **Amendment:** In 9-1725.3. Section (E), It is unclear why "A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT" are now not "ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM." It is our position that state or local governments should still be an eligible entity, with only "THAT HAS NOT OPTED OUT OF THE STATEWIDE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SURCHARGE" be stricken from the bill. **Item of Consideration:** it is important to acknowledge that 'Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion' is not a holistic solution to reducing food insecurity. The dignity of food insecure individuals should always be at the forefront. Food diversion efforts alone cannot solve the food system crisis nor do these efforts always align with uplifting the humanity of individuals experiencing food insecurity. There should be assurances that administrators for the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program uphold these principles and align with the goals of the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council to increase equity in the food system and their acknowledgement that the root causes of food system vulnerability and food insecurity are complex.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 1318 with an amendment.

Michael J. Wilson
Co-Chair, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

2024 HB1318 Testimony Against 2024-03-26.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Honorable Senators

Please vote against HB1318.

This bill would cost the State roughly \$3 million a year to administer and provide grants for processing food waste.

This is straight out of the World Economic Forum and UN Agenda 21:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/02/zero-waste-guide-reuse-items/>

Please vote against HB1318.

Alan Lang, District 31
242 Armstrong Lane
Pasadena, MD 21122
410.336.9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

HB1318—OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: UNF

HB1318—OPPOSE

I am opposed to UNAgenda21 policies.

Linda Diefenbach
Middletown, MD

HB1318OPPOSE (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

HB1318

OPPOSE

Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established

Dear Committee Members;

I strongly oppose this bill. I do not subscribe to United Nations Agenda21 or World Economic Forum policies. We did not elect those people to represent us. They do not get to decide what is best for Marylanders.

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/Documents/Zero Waste Plan Draft_12.15.14.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/Documents/Zero_Waste_Plan_Draft_12.15.14.pdf) <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/02/zero-waste-guide-reuse-items/> Please oppose this bill.

Peggy Williams

Severna Park

D31

Vote NO on HB 1318.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacy Pedersen

Position: UNF

To the Maryland Congress:

This is UN Agenda and World Economic Forum. Please do not allow these policies to infiltrate our country. It is treasonous to invite and support such policies!!

Vote NO on HB 1318

Sincerely,

Stacy Pedersen

HB1318 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: William Love

Position: UNF

I'm Bill Love of 490 Fairoak Dr, Severna Park MD

Concerning HB1318: Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

This bill is straight out of the World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/02/zero-waste-guide-reuse-items/>

Please, vote unfavorably to this unconstitutional bill.

Thank you

HB1318 (Senate)_LOI_NWRA_Solid Waste Disposal Surc

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: INFO

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:

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