



Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-922-3426 | www.mdfarmbureau.com

February 28, 2024

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB1318 - Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1139, legislation that will create grant programs to divert compostable waste from landfills as well as on-farm composting and compost use. Funded by a nominal surcharge on waste disposed at landfills, incinerators, and waste transfer stations, this grant program could generate as much as \$30 million per year to be made available to mobilize investments in waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting.

A significant amount of the grant funds would be earmarked to support on-farm composting and compost use. Expanding the ability to compost on farms is essential for farmers to generate the needed organic matter and natural fertilizer to improve soil health and make farm fields more resilient. Programs like this one would inject money into a fledgling industry that would help divert compostable materials from the landfill and to a farm for a much better and more sustainable use.

MDFB Policy: We support the right for Maryland farmers to make and process mulch and compost from both on and off the farm sources.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1139 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Hough", written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please contact Tyler Hough (443) 878-4045