

**To: The Honorable Marc Korman  
Environment and Transportation Committee**

**From: Bioenergy Devco**

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

**Date: March 1, 2024**

**Position: Favorable**

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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 would like to thank the Committee members who recently visited our organic recycling facility during the last interim. Our facility 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. We would like to thank the sponsor of this legislation for working with all the stakeholders to make modifications in the bill that will improve its effectiveness.

House Bill 1318 establishes a solid waste disposal surcharge on the final disposal of solid waste in the State. These funds will be deposited in the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program to facilitate grants within the State. These grants will be used to develop the necessary infrastructure for comprehensive organic diversion and recycling across 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.