

On-Farms Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs.

HB429/SB599

To the Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Nicholas (Nick) Suwito, I am from Clarksburg, Maryland and I urge you to take action for HB429/SB599.

Food waste reduction has been a major challenge so far and it is causing a worsening climate crisis and negative health impacts to the environment. Waste products such as single-use glass, plastic and metal are often buried in landfills, which could be a danger to the environment. They often lead to disproportionate health impacts, causing millions of dollars in health charges to Baltimore and D.C residents and around half of various communities are suffering from cancer or asthma. About 1 in 6 children are suffering with food insecurity

We should address the situations by covering funds, infrastructure for food waste reduction initiatives, food rescue and redistribution programs, composting infrastructure and collection programs and transition from single-use to reusable food serviceware. To do that, we will have to cover \$100 million in health charges and fund for initiative tasks. This should ensure food security and improved healthcare funds for a more sustainable community. I urge you to agree on this bill so that we can address the issues effectively and efficiently. HB429/SB599.

Sincerely, Nicholas M. Suwito