



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## Senate Bill 599

### *On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
and Budget & Taxation Committees

Date: February 24, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 599. This bill would establish several grant programs to expand composting, strengthen environmental stewardship, and improve recycling outcomes.

Tackling climate change will require bold, practical investments across many core public services. Food waste sent to landfills generates significant greenhouse gas emissions—especially methane—and finding better ways to reduce and divert this material is one of the most important long-term challenges facing local governments. SB 599 would help counties turn a costly liability into a valuable resource by investing in new programs that reduce food waste upstream and redirect unavoidable waste into more productive uses.

SB 599 is a forward-looking, innovative approach to an age-old issue. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 599.