

**Testimony in Support of SB599/HB429**  
**On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**Submitted on 20 February 2026 by 6:00 pm**

To the Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Hilary Crouse. I live in Catonsville, MD and have spent the past 3 years going to college in rural St. Mary's County. I urge you to consider the positive implications of this bill and thank you in advance for your consideration of support.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The three R's commonly heard in relation to the environment and human use of nonrenewable resources and materials. Waste reduction will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases in many aspects. The transportation of, removal of, and incinerating of waste all contribute to carbon emissions. Waste reduction and diversion in targeted areas can decrease these emissions drastically.

This Bill will:

- Reduce, rescue, compost, and recycle wasted food; along with moving towards reusable food service ware
- Create on farm organic recycling and compost
- Reduce, rescue, and divert wasted food

I support HB049/SB-599 because it will move Maryland towards lesser waste in no reusable food ware, reduce food insecurity, and create better opportunities for organizations to implement composting. I support this bill because it will create an ability for my school, St. Mary's College of Maryland, to apply for funds that could allocate a composting program for our campus and surrounding community to benefit from.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give SB559/HB429 a favorable report.

Sincerely,  
Hilary Crouse