

To the Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Lucas Evans and I go to St. Mary's College of Maryland, I urge a favorable report on HB 429/SB 599.

HB 429 / SB 599 creates three statewide grant programs in Maryland to reduce food waste. It would fund projects that prevent and rescue wasted food, expand composting and organic recycling (including on farms), and give counties resources to divert food waste from landfills.

The bill aims to strengthen local infrastructure, support farmers and businesses, improve soil health and food security, and reduce disposal costs over time. While a permanent funding source has not yet been finalized, the bill establishes the framework so the programs can be funded and implemented in the future.

Overall, the bill is part of a long-term plan to secure funding and officially establish these grant programs, with clear rules developed over five years with input from many stakeholders.

I support bill HB 429/SB 599 requiring a decrease in food waste which will help Maryland, economically, environmentally, and in regard to food security. As someone who personally composts at home, but while at college I find it difficult to compost as much, I think that proper food waste is extremely important. Also, I grew up on a small hobby farm, and using all the compost and manure in our gardens was a great example that taught me their power to grow plants very fast. Therefore, combating this issue will help thousands of people while also decreasing carbon emissions.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give HB 429/SB 599 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Lucas Evans