



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Re: Senate Bill 599 – On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established**

Position: **Support**

Chair Feldman & Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) I am writing to express our support for **Senate Bill 599 – On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established**. MASCD, incorporated in 1956, promotes practical and effective soil, water, and natural resource related programs to all Marylanders. Through individual conservation districts MASCD provides leadership, education, cooperation, and local direction, on a voluntary basis.

SB 599 would create an on-farm grant program to support organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue, with clear eligibility and priorities. Eligible projects include on-farm and community composting, infrastructure and collection programs, technical assistance, best-management-practice training, and studies of how compost applications affect on-farm nutrient and water-quality management. From MASCD's perspective, these activities are directly tied to reducing nutrient losses, improving soil structure and infiltration, and helping producers meet Maryland's water-quality and climate goals while staying in business.

SB 599 continues the tradition of environmental stewardship and economic relief for our Maryland farms and families. For these reasons we respectfully request a **favorable** committee report. Thank you for your kind consideration and attention to this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Nelson, Executive Director  
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts