

HB589 - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 19, 2020

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

We are residents of Prince George's County and members of the Prince George's Compost Advocates. We have been working for more than seven years to expand local and community-scale composting options. While our County has one of the largest composting facilities on the East Coast, most of the County's food waste is still being landfilled. Food waste dumped in state landfills decomposes anaerobically creating methane, a potent greenhouse gas which is warming our planet.

While we have been working to create more local composting facilities for residential food waste, we understand that this solid waste management issue extends well beyond our households and includes commercial businesses and institutions that generate huge amounts of food waste.

Across much of the rest of the state there are few if any nearby or easily accessible compost processing facilities. This bill will help spur development of new compost companies and operations. Food waste which is now a solid waste management problem and a contributor to the world's greenhouse gas emissions can instead become a valuable soil amendment that produces no methane and sequesters CO₂ after it has been composted and spread on farms and gardens.

For these reasons we support HB589 and urge a favorable report from you and your committee.

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