

**Testimony Supporting HB589**  
**House Environment & Transportation Committee**  
**February 19, 2020**

**Position: SUPPORT**

As a Baltimore City resident, I am writing to express my support for HB589, which will help keep organic materials out of Maryland's landfills and incinerators and spark the development of more compost businesses in Maryland.

I personally compost, and as someone who has worked in food and hospitality businesses, I know how much food that could be composted goes to waste, over 25%, and it often felt like more. Passing this bill could have an impact for generations on the soil and microbiome in Maryland and our state economy. As a Marylander, I dream of being from the state that leads the nation in our green initiatives and policies, creating ethical and sustainable jobs across the entire state that we can all be proud of. I believe this bill is an incredible step in that direction. Last summer, I was traveling in Europe where residents sorted landfill waste, compost, and recycling out into three separate cans. This was my first experience with municipal wide composting, and I felt deeply inspired. I feel proud and heartened that Maryland has a bill that could usher in a similar era of eco-responsibility and a green economy.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB589 and support a transition toward composting in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Stone

MD 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional district voter