

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

Position: SUPPORT

As a resident of Maryland District 7 and a member of the Sunrise Movement Baltimore Hub, 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 recently started composting at my home to divert my (relatively small) amount of food waste from the landfill to replenish the soil in my yard that will in turn support the growth of new food and life. I know that so much more food is wasted by businesses and restaurants. I've worked in the food industry, and it's not just sad that food is crowding our landfills before it rots. It's sad that material that could be usable compost isn't being utilized to enrich our land and our communities.

Composting can actually turn a profit for municipalities, unlike incineration, landfilling, or even most forms of recycling. I would love to see Maryland increase the prosperity of its residents through this employment and business. Composting in Maryland already "employs two times more workers than landfilling, and four times more workers than incineration. On a per-capital-investment basis, for every \$10 million invested, composting facilities in Maryland support twice as many jobs as landfills and 17 more jobs than incinerators." Wow!

I'm also deeply concerned about the effects of climate change and hopeful about what policies on composting can do to sequester carbon. Please support this bill for the good of our residents and our land.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Wick
MD 7th Congressional District
Legislative District 44a