

## **HB589**

# **Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals**

February 19, 2020 1 PM

Maryland State Environment & Transportation Committee  
Delegate Kumar Barve, Chairman  
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
and Committee members

My name is Christiane Graham. Thank you for hearing my testimony on bill HB 589. I stand before you today as a person of faith. I am a member of the Environmental Justice Ministry at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD, which in turn is a member of the Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. Cedar Lane has approximately 600 members and the McFacs Community includes 40 churches of different denominations in Montgomery County.

It is my sincere hope that you will support bill HB 589 and pass it out of this committee. The bill addresses much needed legislation preventing food scraps from entering landfills, which turns into Methane gas. Methane is an 80 times more potent green house gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. Secondly bill 589 creates much needed compost that benefits our depleted farms and gardens, restores the microorganism of soils, retains moisture and sequesters carbon at a great rate. Composting facilities create jobs and cost less to construct than incinerators or Material Recovery Facilities.

In Paul Hawken's book "Drawdown" 200 scientist from all over the world developed 100 strategies to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Composting is one of them, it will draw down and sequester carbon to the tune of 2.28 gigatons over the next decades. Currently the US composts around 38 % of food waste, Europe about 57 %. Let's beat the Europeans and do better.

In the Unitarian Universalist 7<sup>th</sup> Principle it is stated "Respect for the Interdependent Web of all Existence of which we are a Part." We have an ethical and moral obligation to protect human life, our children and all future generations. We also vow to protect the Interdependent Web of Life, all of which is in great jeopardy due to human caused Global Warming. Many scientists attest that we are now in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> extinction phase on Earth.

Soon the climate crisis will be reaching a deadly tipping point, if it hasn't already. In Maryland an integrated waste management system, which includes composting, will protect the social, economic fabric of our society. We urge you to pass bill 589 out of committee and let the House vote on it as soon as possible.

Thank you

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