

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

Position: SUPPORT

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 would like to see composting be an option at all schools, community centers, restaurants, and beyond.

- Over 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level goes uneaten and wasted.
- Composting can actually turn a profit for municipalities, unlike incineration, landfilling, or even most forms of recycling.
- Composting provides a market for local business: we can responsibly dispose of our waste and generate a usable product on the other end.
- Compost sequesters carbon and rebuilds the microbiome when added to soils, providing resiliency benefits and reducing the need for fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.
- Already, composting in Maryland “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.”
- “Support local and state legislation that calls for a phased-in food and organics landfill ban, also known as a large quantity generator ban” is a short-term strategy named in the Baltimore Office of Sustainability’s Baltimore Food Waste and Recovery Strategy plan.

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

Sincerely,



Chelsey Barrett