

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**

a chapter of the

**National  
Waste & Recycling  
Association<sup>SM</sup>**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

**TO:** The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Stephanie Smith

**FROM:** Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Richard A. Tabuteau

**DATE:** February 26, 2020

**RE:** **OPPOSE** – House Bill 988 – *Environment – Business Recycling Reporting Requirements*

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The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 988.

House Bill 988 requires businesses to report specified information related to their recycling activity. While the intent of the legislation is clearly to assist counties in calculating their recycling rates, requiring businesses to report in the manner specified is not possible and will impose a legal requirement on businesses they will not be able to achieve. First, businesses do not have access to information relative to the weight of their recyclable materials. Collection containers reflect volume but not weight. Furthermore, while containers reflect volume, the volume utilized by a business with respect to their container is not consistent and is dependent on a number of factors that a business cannot control or calculate. Finally, collection of recyclables is not business specific. A collection vehicle will collect from multiple locations thereby making it impossible to define the volume or tonnage of recyclables from any given business.

Currently, recycling facilities in Maryland do report information to the Counties to be used when calculating their recycling rates. The facilities are best situated to estimate volumes and tonnage of recycling materials. Further, individual Counties may already have a working relationship with certain businesses to report information and creating a “one size fits all” approach to reporting fails to recognize that the framework for waste and recycling collection and processing – both residential and commercial – is inherently local. House Bill 988 will not result in the outcome that appears to be the objective of the sponsor. MDSWA requests and unfavorable report.

**For more information call:**

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