



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **Senate Bill 483**

Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

Date: February 10, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Position: Support

From: David Tana

Maryland Outreach Manager

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS SB 483**. This bill would require producers of large amounts of food waste in the vicinity of an organics recycling facility to use those facilities, helping to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions stemming from traditional waste management.

Food waste diversion from landfills and incinerators helps reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and methane released by those traditional methods of waste management. Reductions in greenhouse gases improves resilience in our ever-changing climate. Climate change affects the Chesapeake Bay through severe weather, higher temperatures, and rising sea levels.

SB0483 takes reasonable steps to increase organic recycling, composting, and food waste diversion in Maryland. With a phased-in approach, the legislation requires first only those producing more than two tons of food waste a week, and who are within 30 miles of a food recycling facility to divert their food residuals from traditional disposal in landfills and incinerators. The legislation also provides those producing large amounts of food waste with options of reducing the amount of food residuals generated; donating servable food; managing the food residuals in an on-site system; and utilizing food residuals for agricultural use.

This bill also encourages donating servable food to those in need as an option for food waste diversion. For the past 30 years, CBF's own Claggett Farm has supported the Capital Area Food Bank by donating about 35,000 pounds of produce annually to lower income communities. Efforts to make use of excess food through donation may help reverse social inequities and provide at-risk communities with fortifying local produce.

Burning and burying food residuals are not the only ways to address food waste. Increasing recycling, composting, reuse, and reduction of food waste benefits air and water quality, improves soil health, helps fight the effects of climate change, and contributes to a more equitable society.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB0483.**

For additional information, contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org) or 443.995.8753

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*