SB483_FAV_MCA_Bailey.pdf
Uploaded by: Bailey, Joyce
Position: FAV

Testimony for SB0483
"Solid Waste Management--Organics Waste Management and Waste Diversion--Food Residuals"

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Organization: Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Person Submitting: Joyce Bailey, Climate Change Liaison
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0483.

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance was founded to promote sound economic, land-use and transportation policies that preserve the natural environment, open spaces and rural lands in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve for the benefit of all Washington Metropolitan area residents.

We urge you to vote favorably for SB0483. The bill will serve to reduce methane and other greenhouse gasses and toxic pollutants emitted by landfills, incinerators, and agriculture; reduce run off to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; rebuild healthy soils; and create jobs.

Food Donations: SB0483 also allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, **food donation increased by at least 30%**, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people. As the need for supplemental food continues to rise in our county food donation would be of considerable value

Bill Requirements: This Organics Recycling bill would require entities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week AND that are within 30 miles of a compost or other food recovery facility to otherwise divert this material from the waste stream through donations, reduction, or anaerobic digestion. In 2024, the requirement would apply to entities that produce more than one ton of food waste per week.

More than 25% food supply wasted: Food waste is a persistent problem, with more than 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Large generators of food waste produce most of the organic waste in the state – facilities that generate more than one ton of food waste a week contribute more than half

of Maryland's organic waste. SB0483 allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

Stimulates economic development: Moreover, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion bill will stimulate investment in and expansion of needed capacity to handle recycling of food waste as well as encourage economic development by bringing businesses to Maryland. The bill will reduce solid waste disposal and at the same time capture a valuable resource to improve soil quality, support agriculture, conserve water, and reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions. As we look to alternatives to incineration and landfills, recycling and composting of food waste are essential.

Creates jobs: It will help to accomplish these goals while at the same time supporting local food systems and creating green jobs in Maryland. Expanding composting and local compost use could support almost 1,400 new full-time jobs in Maryland, according to a 2013 study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Expanding compost would support both new and existing compost facilities, and also support Maryland businesses that use compost for soil erosion control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and other purposes.

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions: Diversion of food waste from landfills and incinerators will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO2 in its first 20 years after emission.

According to the EPA, food scraps and food waste are the largest portion of waste sent by municipalities to landfills and incinerators, accounting for as much as 51 percent of waste. According to the 2017 book "Drawdown--The Most comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming," reducing food waste offers solutions to the number three cause of global warming. Ten of the 80 ranked solutions to protect the climate intersect with food waste or compost in some way (food waste reduction, bioplastics, regenerative agriculture, methane digesters, household recycling, landfill methane, composting, nutrient management, and biochar). Together they underscore the importance of redirecting valuable organic materials from polluting disposal facilities into soil amendments.

Builds Healthy Soils & Reduces Runoff: Food scraps and waste are an excellent source of material for making compost and adding compost to our soils results in building healthy soils. This is consistent with our promotion of regenerative agricultural within the Agricultural Reserve in order to sequester

additional carbon in the soil. Healthy soils and the plants that grow in them, hold carbon in the ground, sequestering carbon. Healthy soils are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, store carbon, are stable, and retain water. We need sustainable, long term solutions to managing our organic waste and supporting the growth of composting is a win-win strategy.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably for SB0483.

SB0483-FAV-DTMG-2-10-21.pdf
Uploaded by: Bartlett, Olivia
Position: FAV

Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB0483 – Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Bill Contact: Senator Shelly Hettleman

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment, that support and uplift all members of its communities, and that promote equity across all of our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0483 because diverting food waste from landfills will help Maryland meet its goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which contribute to climate change, will help generate new green jobs, and will increase food donation.

Disposing of organic food waste in landfills and incinerators contributes to climate change. Burning food waste produces the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO2) and other emissions that adversely affect the environment, and food waste decomposes anaerobically in landfills to produce methane, which is at least 80 times more potent than CO2 as a GHG. According to the 2017 Maryland GHG Inventory produced by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), landfills in Maryland produce almost as much methane as wastewater management and agriculture, and only slightly less methane than what is produced by Maryland's natural gas industry. This is largely due to anaerobic decomposition of organic waste – mainly food waste – in the landfills.

In contrast, composting food waste turns this discarded organic material into a nutrient-rich product that helps sequester carbon and has both environmental and economic benefits, including reduction of GHG emissions and contributing to green jobs. According to the Maryland Environmental Service, food scraps make up about 43% of compostable material and 15% of the total waste generated. In Maryland, this translates to an estimated 998,630 tons of food waste generated each year. However, only about 12% of food waste is recycled in Maryland; the remaining food waste is disposed in landfills or incinerated.

SB0483 will address this problem by requiring large-scale food waste generators to separate food residuals if an organics recycling facility that has the capacity and is willing to accept food residuals exists within a 30-mile radius.

According to the Maryland Environmental Service, there are at least a dozen food waste hauling and recovery companies operating in Maryland and at least five major grocery store chains in Maryland collect food scraps and/or have a food donation program.

The benefits of composting food waste include:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Extension of landfill/incinerator capacity
- Production of a highly desirable soil conditioner that partially replaces the need for chemical fertilizers and can be sold to offset the costs of composting
- Reduction of need for irrigation
- Creation of new green jobs
- Improvement of water and air quality

SB0483 also allows donation of servable food as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation was passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%. SB0483 would therefore also address another major problem in Maryland. According to the Maryland Food Bank, historically, about 1 in 8 (12.5%) Marylanders has been food insecure in recent years. During the current coronavirus pandemic, that number is much higher.

Therefore, SB0483 will be good for Maryland's environment, will help Maryland meet its GHG reduction goals, and will help address food insecurity across the state.

For all these reasons, DTMG strongly supports SB0483 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

MAC - testimony on SB0483.pdf
Uploaded by: Cather, Amanda
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND SENATE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 483 (Senator Hettleman)
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

Position: Support

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 483 – Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals and its overall goal to reduce food waste and convert it into valuable products like compost.

The Million Acre Challenge works with farmers, policy-makers, and consumers to support healthy soils on Maryland farms and across the greater Chesapeake region. Our collaborative aims to catalyze the growing movement to achieve no fewer than one million acres of healthy soils in Maryland by 2030. The Million Acre Challenge is a collaborative project of:

- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**
- **Fair Farms** (a project of Waterkeepers Chesapeake)
- **Future Harvest**
- **Hatcher Group**
- **Institute for Energy and Environmental Research**
- **Institute for Local Self-Reliance**

Healthy soils can act as a huge carbon sink to help counteract greenhouse gas emissions. They are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, store carbon, are much less prone to erosion, and help buffer against both the excess and lack of water. The addition of well-made compost can contribute to soil health by delivering the following benefits:

- Adding organic matter to soil
- Enhancing plant growth
- Adding microbial populations and activity to soil

- Decreasing disease and pest issues
- Retaining nutrients and water in soils
- Helping urban, suburban, and rural soils
- Storing carbon and cutting landfill methane emissions

SB 483 will encourage increased composting and composting capacity/infrastructure in the state. To help build healthy soils, farmers need not only access to high-quality compost but also assistance in composting onsite at farms. This bill allows large food waste generators to implement any number of strategies to reduce waste, such as providing for the collection and transportation of food residuals for agricultural use, including as animal feed and in composting operations. We urge you not only to pass this bill but also to take up future legislation to support on-farm composting and farm use of high-quality compost.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amanda Cather
Project Director, Million Acre Challenge
amanda@millionacrechallenge.org • millionacrechallenge.org

Additional Supporters:

Bart Yablonsky, *Dawson's Market*
Bonnie Raindrop, *Central Maryland Beekeepers Association*
Carolyn E. Ricketts, *Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis*
David Pearman, *Kindread Organix*
Devora Kimelman-Block, *KOL Foods*
Ellen Polishuk, *Plant to Profit*
Emily Ranson, *Clean Water Action*
Gabriel Bustos, *Elemental Education*
Heather Bruskin, *Montgomery County Food Council*
JoAnn Coates-Hunter, *Fox Haven Organic Farm & Learning Center*
Kate Medina, *Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming*
Kathy Phillips, *Assateague Coastal Trust*
Meghan Ochal, *Dicot Farm*
Melanie Smith-Bell, *Community FARE*
Mike Houston, *Takoma Park Silver Spring Food Cooperative*
Peter Elmore, *Star Bright Farm*
Samuel White, *Leaning Pine Farm*

_Support for SB0483.pdf
Uploaded by: DySard, Alexandra
Position: FAV

RE: Support for SB0483
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

February 10, 2021

Greetings,

On behalf of MOM's Organic Market I would like to urge a favorable vote on SB0483 the **Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals Bill.**

Since 2005, MOM's has composted all organic waste generated onsite in our grocery stores and cafes, and we allow customers to bring in their home food waste for composting free of charge to any of our 20 stores. In 2020 we composted about 345 tons - about 690,000 lbs. We compost and offer composting because as a food provider and producer we feel we have an innate responsibility to our community's health and making sure our business practices are sustainable, with minimal negative impacts on our environment.

The U.S. EPA estimates that about 24% of waste is organic material that can and should be composted. In fact, Americans throw away an average of 1.3 pounds of food scraps daily – roughly 500 lbs per person/per year. It is extremely wasteful to not capitalize on capturing this beneficial organic material and instead burn or bury it locally, thus polluting Maryland air, waterways and further advancing the effects of global warming.

Through composting wasted food and other organics, methane emissions are significantly reduced. Compost reduces and in some cases eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers and compost provides carbon sequestration which is pertinent in the fight against climate change.

The global compost market is expected to reach an estimated $9.2 billion by 2024 with an annual growth rate of nearly 7%. MOM's feels that it is extremely important for Maryland to be an early adopter and support the growing local Maryland compost industry and businesses.

MOM's partners with 5 East Coast composting companies, 3 in Maryland and I will gladly share contact info, best practices, success stories, roadblocks, etc. from our past 15 years of experience.

I thank you for your time, and urge a favorable vote on SB0483

Sincerely,

Alexandra (Ali) DySard
Environmental & Partnership Manager
MOM's Organic Market
301.816.1133 ext. 122

BDC Testimony - 2021- SB483- waste diversion.pdf
Uploaded by: Greenfield, Aaron
Position: FAV

Bill Title: **Senate Bill 493, Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals**
Committee: **Education, Health & Environment**
Date: **February 10, 2021**
Position: **Favorable**

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC). BDC is an industry leading developer of anaerobic digestion facilities, with 20-years of global experience. BDC guarantees performance of the 220 facilities it has developed and the more than 150 plants it operates worldwide, BDC's utility-grade anaerobic digestion is an environmentally sound process that creates a true source of renewable, carbon-negative energy for pipeline and vehicle use. Our qualified team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers, and marketing experts offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support for long term success. We are proud to have Maryland as BDC's United States headquarters.

This bill defines "food residuals" and requires that within a 30 mile radius, beginning January 1, 2023 a generator that produces 2 tons a week must take the waste to an organics recycling facility. The tonnage requirement for waste diversion reduces to one ton on or after January 1, 2024.

The Maryland Department of the Environment estimates that Maryland food manufacturers and processors produce up to 998,630 tons of excess food waste per year. Most reports suggest that between 30%-40% of food is wasted along the supply chain, from processing through in-home and dining-out consumption. Only 5% of food waste is currently diverted to compost or anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities. As a result, food waste is typically the first or second largest component of the municipal solid waste stream. Excess organic waste is typically disposed of through unsustainable means such as incineration, crowded landfills, or worst of all, left to pollute local communities. Disruption in the supply chain and related food waste disposal challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted the urgent need for robust organics recycling infrastructure.

The issue of food waste has significant impacts on the environment, the economy, and on food insecurity. As awareness of the problem has grown, federal, state, and local governments have explored policy avenues to reduce and manage food waste. On the state level, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York and New Jersey have passed laws related to diverting food waste from landfills. Promoting organic recycling infrastructure, like anaerobic digestion, allows waste to be repurposed into truly renewable natural gas and organic soil amendment to improve the soil, water and air quality of our communities.

While there are valid concerns related to possible impacts on waste disposal fees, it is important to highlight that in states where this legislation has been implemented, more organic recycling infrastructure has been built out to meet demand and offset fee increases for haulers, business owners and consumers. A recent report published by the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic emphasized the importance of creating networks of smaller processing facilities in geographically dispersed locations to

reduce impacts on the cost of hauling. We would welcome input from EPA Region 3(Mid-Atlantic) representatives and other relevant regulatory bodies to ensure successful implementation of this legislation.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 493**.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Greenfield at 410.446.1992

Senate FF Testimony - Waste Diversion.pdf
Uploaded by: Kalm, Shelby
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Senate Bill 483 (Senator Hettleman)
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

POSITION: Support

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 264 on behalf of Fair Farms. The Fair Farms campaign of Waterkeepers Chesapeake brings together consumers, farmers, public health professionals, and conservationists to advocate for a food system that is equitable, fair to farmers, invests in homegrown healthy foods, and restores our waterways. We are a growing movement of over 35,000 Marylanders and close to 200 partners across the state.

Fair Farms resoundingly supports this bill, and its overall goal to reduce food waste and convert it into valuable products like compost. Improving soil health is critical, and this initiative will have a positive impact on water quality, ecosystem health, and public health. Healthy soils can act as a carbon sink to help balance out greenhouse gas emissions. They are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, store carbon, are stable, and retain water. The addition of well-made compost can contribute to soil health by delivering the following benefits:

- Adding organic matter to soil,
- Enhancing plant growth,
- Adding microbial populations and activity to soil,
- Decreasing disease and pest issues,
- Retaining nutrients and water in soils,
- Helping urban, suburban, and rural soils, and
- Storing carbon and cutting landfill methane emissions.

SB 483 will encourage increased composting and composting capacity/infrastructure in the state. To help build healthy soils, farmers need not only access to high-quality compost but also assistance in composting onsite at farms. This bill allows large food waste generators to implement any number of strategies to reduce waste, such as providing for the collection and transportation of food residuals for agricultural use, including as animal feed and in

composting operations. We urge you not only to pass this bill but also to take up future legislation to support on-farm composting and farm use of high-quality compost.

We urge a favorable report on this key bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Kalm
Fair Farms Campaign Manager
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

SB0483_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_LizKato.pdf
Uploaded by: Kato, Liz
Position: FAV

SB0483 – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals

Testimony before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 10, 2020

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Liz Kato, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in ***support of SB0483***, to provide a constructive solution to the problem of food waste in Maryland. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

Food waste is a persistent problem, with over 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Whether landfilled or burned, the waste generates methane and carbon dioxide and is a major driver of climate change. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent for warming the climate than carbon dioxide and landfills contribute 17% of Maryland's methane.

Fortunately, this problem has a solution. Most of the organic waste in Maryland landfills comes from large generators of food waste. SB0483 will drastically lower Maryland's carbon emissions by requiring these facilities, such as food processors and supermarkets, to divert food waste from landfills and incinerators and instead choose one of a range of zero waste strategies: sending food waste to a compost or anaerobic digestion facility, reducing waste, donating servable food, managing waste in a system installed onsite, or diverting food waste for agricultural purposes. We can realize these environmental benefits with minimal economic impact – SB0483 only applies to facilities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week, only applies if the facility has access to a nearby organics recycling facility, and allows these facilities flexibility to choose from a range of options. Furthermore, the law will create business opportunities for local entrepreneurs to respond to the need for zero waste options.

SB0483 helps more than just the climate. Compost improves our soil health. When added to soil, compost adds carbon and can reduce urban stormwater pollutants by 60 to 95%. SB0483 also addresses hunger in our community. Because of the COVID pandemic, many more Marylanders are food insecure this year than last year. When legislation similar to SB0483 passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Liz Kato, Columbia, MD 21045

SB483_MCACetal_Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Kunze, Jennifer
Position: FAV

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB 483 - "Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion -- Food Residuals"
Organization: Maryland Compost Advocacy Coalition
Representative: Diana Younts
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The Maryland Compost Advocacy Coalition brings together environmental, business, and civic organizations to advance composting policies in Maryland to reduce methane and other greenhouse gasses and toxic pollutants emitted by landfills, incinerators, and agriculture; reduce run off to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; rebuild healthy soils; and divert food to much needed food pantries.

We strongly urge you to support HB 0264. This Organics Recycling bill would require entities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week AND that are within 30 miles of a compost or other food recovery facility to compost or otherwise divert this material from the waste stream through donations, reduction, or anaerobic digestion. In 2024, the requirement would apply to entities that produce more than one ton of food waste per week.

A version of this bill was introduced in the 2020 session, but this year's bill contains changes to address concerns raised by small businesses. For instance, the bill no longer applies to entities that produce less than one ton of food waste per week and it also contains waiver protections for entities that cannot find a cost competitive diversion option.

Food waste is a persistent problem, with more than 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Large generators of food waste produce most of the organic waste in the state – facilities that generate more than one ton of food waste a week contribute more than half of Maryland's organic waste. HB 0264

allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

Moreover, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion bill will stimulate investment in and expansion of needed capacity to handle recycling of food waste as well as encourage economic development by bringing businesses to Maryland. The bill will reduce solid waste disposal and at the same time capture a valuable resource to improve soil quality, support agriculture, conserve water, and reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

It will help to accomplish these goals while at the same time supporting local food systems and creating green jobs in Maryland. Expanding composting and local compost use could support almost 1,400 new full-time jobs in Maryland, according to a 2013 study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Expanding compost would support both new and existing compost facilities, and also support Maryland businesses that use compost for soil erosion control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and other purposes.

Diversion of food waste from landfills and incinerators will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO2 in its first 20 years after emission.

According to the EPA, food scraps and food waste are the largest portion of waste sent by municipalities to landfills and incinerators, accounting for as much as 24 percent of waste. According to the 2017 book "Drawdown--The Most comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming," reducing food waste offers solutions to the number three cause of global warming. Ten of the 80 ranked solutions to protect the climate intersect with food waste or compost in some way (food waste reduction, bioplastics, regenerative agriculture, methane digesters, household recycling, landfill methane, composting, nutrient management, and biochar). Together they underscore the importance of redirecting valuable organic materials from polluting disposal facilities into soil amendments.

Food scraps and waste are an excellent source of material for making compost and adding compost to our soils results in building healthy soils. Healthy soils and the plants that grow in them, hold carbon in the ground, sequestering carbon. Healthy soils are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, store carbon, are stable, and retain water. We need sustainable, long term solutions to managing our organic waste and supporting the growth of composting is a win-win strategy.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB 0264, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion bill.

Thank you,

Atlas Organics
Baltimore Beyond Plastic
Catonsville Indivisibles
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry
Clean Water Action
Echotopia, LLC
Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Envision Frederick County
Frack-Free Frostburg
Frederick Compost Working Group
Glenelg Earth Organization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Howard County Association of Student Councils
Howard County Climate Action (www.HoCoClimateAction.org)
Indivisible HoCo MD
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Marriotts Ridge High School Environmental Club
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
MLC Climate Justice Wing
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Montgomery County Food Council
Mountain Maryland Movement
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oakland Mills High School Climate Activism Club
Our Revolution Maryland
Prince George's County Food Equity Council
Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc
Safe Skies Maryland
Strong Future Maryland
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association
Sunrise Movement Baltimore
Sunrise Movement Frederick
Sunrise Movement Howard County
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

WISE

Individuals:

Abigail Kusmin
Allen Yuan
Amuthini Arivazhagan
Anwesha Gorantla
Batolomeo
Campbell Shepard
Celeste Basken
Charmaine Yuan
Claire Huang
Clarisse Holman
Colin Wang
Diana Imre
Elli Ahn
Emily Shim
Erinn Kaiser
Grace Whitken
Gwen Baker
Isabel Musters
Isabella Battish
Jennifer Shepard
Jessica Turner
Kathryn Gargurevich
Kathy Bartolomeo
Lane Schanck
Luisa Robles
Luke Jantac
MacKenzie Carr
Marina Blackman
Michael Richman
Michael Wade
Michael Wade
Michelle Rockville
Nicole Cifuentes
Richard Deutschmann
Samantha Mosley
Shayna Kieley
Sofia Romero
Sophie Brynes
Tanisha Bhandary
Tiara Bidjou

SB0483_HB0264 Compost_Food Recovery Testimony-KL.p
Uploaded by: Longabaugh, Katherine
Position: FAV

February 8, 2021

Testimony on SB0483/HB0264
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore
Person Submitting: Katherine Longabaugh
Position: Favorable

My name is Katherine, a resident of Baltimore, District 43. I am a member of the Sunrise Movement Baltimore, a movement led by young people fighting against the climate crisis. This testimony represents my support for SB0483/HB0264, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion Act.

Food waste produces methane, a very potent greenhouse gas that contributes to the climate crisis. Methane yields 84 times more efficacy compared to CO2 at trapping heat in our atmosphere.[1] The USDA estimates that 30-40% of our food supply is wasted at a retail and consumer level.[2] That is a lot of waste! This food waste is the single largest source of waste in landfills and incinerators and the third largest source of methane in landfills in the US according to the EPA,[3] not to mention how the invaluable environmental and labor resources continue to be wasted to grow and transport this soon-to-be-wasted food.

Here in Baltimore that waste is incinerated and creates toxic air pollution too. Baltimore has among the highest rates of breathing related diseases of cities in the country and we Baltimore residents spend $55 million annually on health costs related to burning trash.[4] Composting is an essential part of reducing incineration and landfill use and increasing reuse and recycling.

The first easy solution to this problem is to combat food waste and feed our communities. Businesses and organizations should donate their extra food to help those fighting food insecurity. In the US, 1 in 9 people and 1 in 6 children struggle with hunger, and in 2018 11% of Marylanders struggled with food insecurity.[5] That number has only grown with the pandemic.

Second, food that cannot be donated should be composted for communities to reap its innumerable benefits. Compost nourishes our soil to grow more food and plants, reduces and/or

[1] https://mde.state.md.us/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/MWGMDEPres02242017.pdf
[2] https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/why
[3] Ibid.
[4] https://ilsr.org/report-baltimore-zero-waste/
[5] https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/maryland

eliminates the need for toxic pesticides and herbicides, improves water retention, and even sequesters carbon from our atmosphere. It can be used in habitat and wetlands revitalization and to improve contaminated and marginal soils.

In Baltimore and throughout Maryland, compost can be used for community gardens and farms to grow local food and combat food insecurity. Urban and suburban farming also helps to fight the more extremes of the urban heat island effect and frequent flooding our cities endure due to climate change. There are plenty of benefits to compost use in our own communities.

Compost and food recovery would provide many full-time jobs in our communities. According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, composting would create twice as many jobs as landfills.[6] This bill will provide economic benefits to new and existing composting facilities and those working in soil remediation. We must grow green jobs to move Maryland forward!

In high school I was part of the Y Earth Service Corps where I learned about the methane emissions of food waste and the benefits of compost. We helped our peers sort their waste at lunch and used the mulch our compost provider brought back to us for our rain garden in a beneficial cycle. We saved costs on trash hauling too. Being originally from Seattle where residential composting is required, and coming to Maryland for college where composting programs vary, was quite a change. It took effort to figure out how to compost and how much our college was actually composting. Composting has so many benefits and we should make it easier for everyone to take part in and thus give back to our communities too.

The Organic Recycling and Waste Diversion Bill will not only help Maryland fight climate change by reducing emissions, food waste, and improving soil health, but help feed food-insecure Marylanders and provide green jobs in our communities.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Katherine Longabaugh
317 E 30th St
Baltimore, MD 21218
District 43

[6]https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Documents/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Composting%20in%20Maryland.pdf

SB0483 - Testimony from Ben Parry, Compost Crew.pd
Uploaded by: Parry, Ben
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB0483
Ben Parry
CEO, Compost Crew
February 10, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB0483. I am the CEO of Compost Crew, a Maryland based food scrap recycling company.

Compost Crew has almost 10 years of experience collecting and composting food scraps. We currently serve thousands of households in the State of Maryland. A growing number of businesses use our services, including apartment buildings, restaurants, grocery stores and senior living communities. These businesses have signed up with us to help reduce their trash bills, and because they recognize the importance of diverting their food waste from landfills, where it would create methane, a potent greenhouse gas. We have been serving some of these businesses for many years, and have learned a lot about how to implement organics recycling successfully, as have a number of other organics recycling companies in the state.

Compost Crew is proud to have built a healthy and growing business. We've created over 25 new, permanent jobs in the last two years, and we are just one business in this fast growing industry. In 2020, we diverted five million pounds of food and organic waste to area compost facilities. However, food waste still represents over 20% of the waste stream. Voluntary participation in organics recycling programs will not move the needle fast enough to address the challenge we face as a state and as a nation.

In order for organics recycling to grow quickly in Maryland a mandate for large-scale food waste producers is one important part of the recipe for success. There are other parts of that recipe, and this bill tasks the Department of Commerce to explore financial incentives for composting and the Department of the Environment to identify locations to develop additional organics recycling facilities. Those sections of the bill are essential ingredients.

The timeline proposed in the bill gives businesses sufficient lead time to take steps to reduce their food waste and plan for and implement the necessary changes to source-separate their food residuals. We can implement composting programs that reduce trash bills for businesses in as little as a couple weeks.

We urge the delegates to support SB0483. Its balanced approach will incent more participation in organics recycling which will in turn extend the life of our landfills, boost the health of our local soils, and help the state do our part to combat climate change.

SB0483_Organics_Recycling_MLC_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia
Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE COALITION

TESTIMONY FOR SB0483
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – ORGANICS RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION – FOOD RESIDUALS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0483 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members support the Organics Recycling bill because it will help expand our recycling capabilities in Maryland and provide an economic benefit, rather than having food waste sit in landfills. Additionally, it will lower greenhouse gas emissions by removing food waste from landfills and incinerators. This will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, which have a far more potent effect on global warming than carbon.

The bill requires entities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week AND that are within 30 miles of a compost or other food recovery facility to divert this material from the waste stream through donations to food banks and other needy organizations, through reduction, or anaerobic digestion. It will help the state take a much-needed step forward in disposing of the significant amounts of food waste that are currently produced by large-scale organizations.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

ILSR testimony SB0483 - Composting - FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Platt, Brenda
Position: FAV

INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SB0483 – Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

Position: Support

February 10, 2021 Public Hearing

Brenda Platt, Director, Composting for Community Initiative, bplatt@ilsr.org
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Committee:

My name is Brenda Platt and I direct the Composting for Community Initiative at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a national nonprofit. I participated for two years on the MD Statewide Compost Work Group, helped develop new regulations to permit composting sites, pushed for legislation requiring the State Highway Administration to spec compost in its road projects, and more recently was responsible for the creation of (and served on) MDE's Study Group to look at how to develop infrastructure to recover yard waste, food residuals, and other organics (as a result of HB171 passed in 2017).

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance urges a favorable report on SB0483 – Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals. This bill would require large food waste generators to reduce, rescue, and/or recycle their food waste if there is nearby capacity to accept this material.

Now that there is a clear regulatory framework, investors need assurance that if they build composting infrastructure, more material will be source-separated and made available for recycling at these new sites. This bill provides this needed incentive. SB0483 does not require any food waste generator to source separate and recycle if there's no place to take material within 30 miles. It does provide flexibility on how material can be managed. Food waste generators can prevent waste, they can donate food to feed people, they can compost on-site, they can send their material to a farmer, or a combination of all of these.

There have been several iterations of this bill proposed dating back to 2014. Over the years, I and others have dialogued with interested parties to address concerns. For instance, we've removed requirements for yard waste and clarified that food waste generators can divert their materials to a combination of options.

The law only applies if an organics recycling facility exists within a 30-mile radius that is willing and able to take their material. The bill does not require generators to send to that facility, but only to avoid disposal if capacity exists. The idea behind the bill is to spur not only needed infrastructure but close-in facilities. If passed, this new policy would first target those generating 2 tons or more of food waste each week (a typical grocery store). Additional food waste generators would be required to divert in succeeding years. Similar legislation has passed in a number of states, including California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, and more recently New Jersey (signed into law April 2020). Phasing in the requirements over several years will allow businesses/schools/institutions to prepare along with haulers and facilities. Vermont's success is in part attributed to its phase-in time period.

According to Josh Kelly, Materials Management Section Chief at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, "DEC can say food waste diversion has increased

every year since 2016. One metric of success has been the growth in food scrap haulers in our state from about a dozen in 2012 when the law was first past, to over 45 [today]... We've also had at least 4 new facilities open up (3 composters and 1 digester) in the past 2 years tied to the food waste policies and two depackagers (one built, one in planning stages) are in development and two organics transfer stations have begun operating… the disposal ban on food scraps/food waste has been successful, even during COVID." [Personal communication via email, January 22, 2021.]

There's no data to support the unfounded fear that SB0483 will increase disposal costs. **In fact, evidence indicates that this bill will increase competition in the marketplace and lower disposal costs. The opening of new receiving facilities in Maryland will likely decrease overall solid waste management and transportation costs.**

To this point, Vermont's Mr. Kelly also maintains that without policies to support organics diversion, the cost could remain high for early adopters. Organics bans support the development of food scrap haulers, which increases the number of services for supermarkets and other generators who want to divert food waste. Food recovery requirements create more competition so that prices have a chance to come down over time.

Attachment A shows the impact of Vermont's law on the tonnage of material received at Green Mountain Compost site. (The temporary dip in 2020 was due to Covid when restaurants and schools closed.) According to the site's general manager, Dan Goossen, Vermont Act 148 was a driver for a lot of folks in thinking about composting for the first time and it was huge for them in terms of the amount of food waste they handled. [Personal communication, January 21, 2021.]

Composting and compost use have many benefits: job creation, healthy soils, climate protection, food security, garbage reduction. Compost adds needed organic matter to soil, sequesters carbon in soil, improves plant growth, conserves water, reduces reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and helps prevent nutrient run-off and soil erosion. See Attachment B. Healthy soils are considered vital to stem climate impacts as they act as a carbon sink. Composting also creates four times as many jobs on a per-ton basis as landfilling and trash incineration (see Attachment C). Composting can effectively take place in a wide range of sizes including small-scale onsite systems (such as at urban farms, schools, universities, and correctional facilities), farm-scale systems, county and municipal sites, and large-scale industrial sites.

Yet, despite these benefits, most food waste generated in Maryland is disposed in landfills or burned. Of the estimated 839,505 tons of food residuals generated per year by Maryland residents and businesses, only 15% was recovered. An estimated whopping 736,500 tons of food residuals are generated by large food scrap generators (LFSGs) producing 1 or more tons per week. The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) identified approximately 3,961 LFSGs located across Maryland. They include supermarkets, hotels, universities, food processing facilities, and food distribution warehouses. These entities could recycle more if more facilities existed and such facilities were within a reasonable distance. The combined composting capacity for food residuals/manure of existing and planned facilities is only 97,120 tons per year (according to MDE's July 2019 report), far below what is needed to accommodate the food waste generated.

This bill does not force mulch sites, natural wood waste processors, or composters to accept materials they do not want. Nor does it require food waste generators to source separate and recycle if there's no place to take it within 30 miles. What it does do is send a clear signal to investors that if they build it, they will come. Again, food waste generators are not expected to recycle if no facilities exist.

I offer the following reasons to support this bill:

1. **Composting Is Essential to Reach Higher Recycling Levels in Maryland**: Our 2013 report, *Pay Dirt*, found that there is an enormous opportunity to achieve higher recycling levels in Maryland with comprehensive composting. Almost half the garbage generated is readily biodegradable in composting or anaerobic digestion facilities.

2. **Composting and Compost Use Will Create In-State Businesses and Jobs**: *Pay Dirt* found that for every 1 million tons of yard waste and food waste diverted to composting, with the resulting compost used within the state, 1,400 new jobs could be sustained.

3. **Maryland Has Insufficient Capacity to Recycle Food Scraps**: More capacity is needed within Maryland to handle materials, particularly food scraps. This bill is specifically designed to stimulate investment in in-state capacity.

4. **Policies Are Needed to Expand Composting and Compost Use In Maryland**: Local and state policies are needed to overcome lack of infrastructure and other obstacles to compost expansion. MDE's permitting regulations for compost sites – promulgated summer 2015 – establish a clear regulatory path. This bill now focuses on the next logical steps: encouraging the building of facilities to meet those new regs. MDE's infrastructure study work group looked at food waste recycling requirements in other states (such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, and California) but stopped short of recommending food waste recycling requirements. It is now up to the legislature to act.

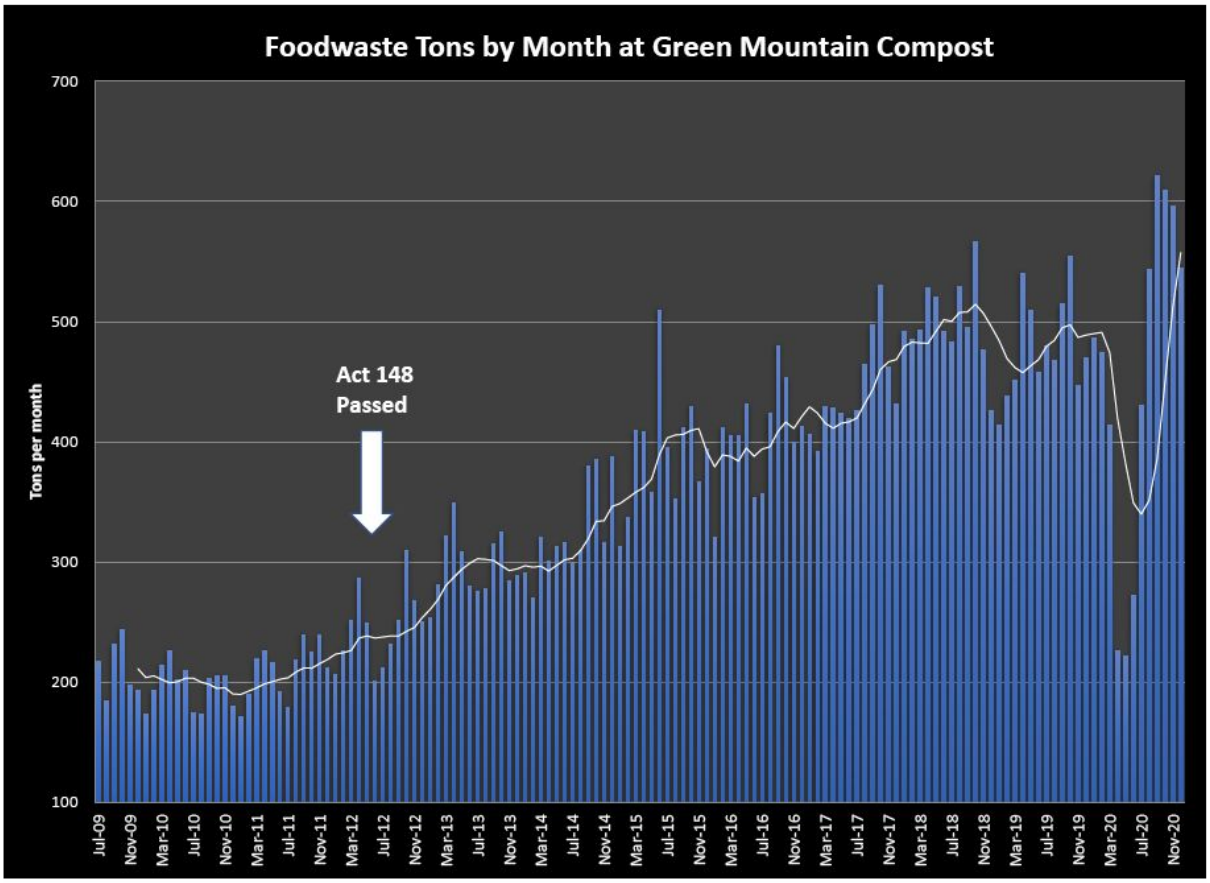
MDE's final July 2019 infrastructure report stated: "The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) stated that it believed the increase in available feedstock encouraged the development of one operating anaerobic digestion facility, and the agency has approved the construction of three additional facilities. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) believed that the certainty of organic material supply led to the construction of the state's first commercial anaerobic digester. Also, a commercial scale composting facility and animal feeding operation have begun processing food residuals in Rhode Island. A Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) economic impact analysis found that in 2016, the organics recovery industry added approximately $77 million to the gross state product and generated approximately $175 million in economic activity. In 2015, organic material haulers and processors managed six and eight times more food residuals, respectively, when compared to 2010. Vermont certified nine composting facilities to process food residuals and/or yard trimmings, and the Vermont Food Bank reported that 3,658 tons of food diverted was through food donation." [pages 22-23]

5. **There Is an Immediate Need to Reduce Biodegradable Materials Landfilled or Burned**: Landfills are a top source of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas in the short term. As a result, methane regulation has significant short-term potential to slow climate change. The best alternative to landfill disposal for biodegradable materials is not municipal trash combustors, which continuously emit carbon dioxide, but composting and anaerobic digestion. When added to soil, compost sequesters carbon. If we want to stem climate change, we need to act now.

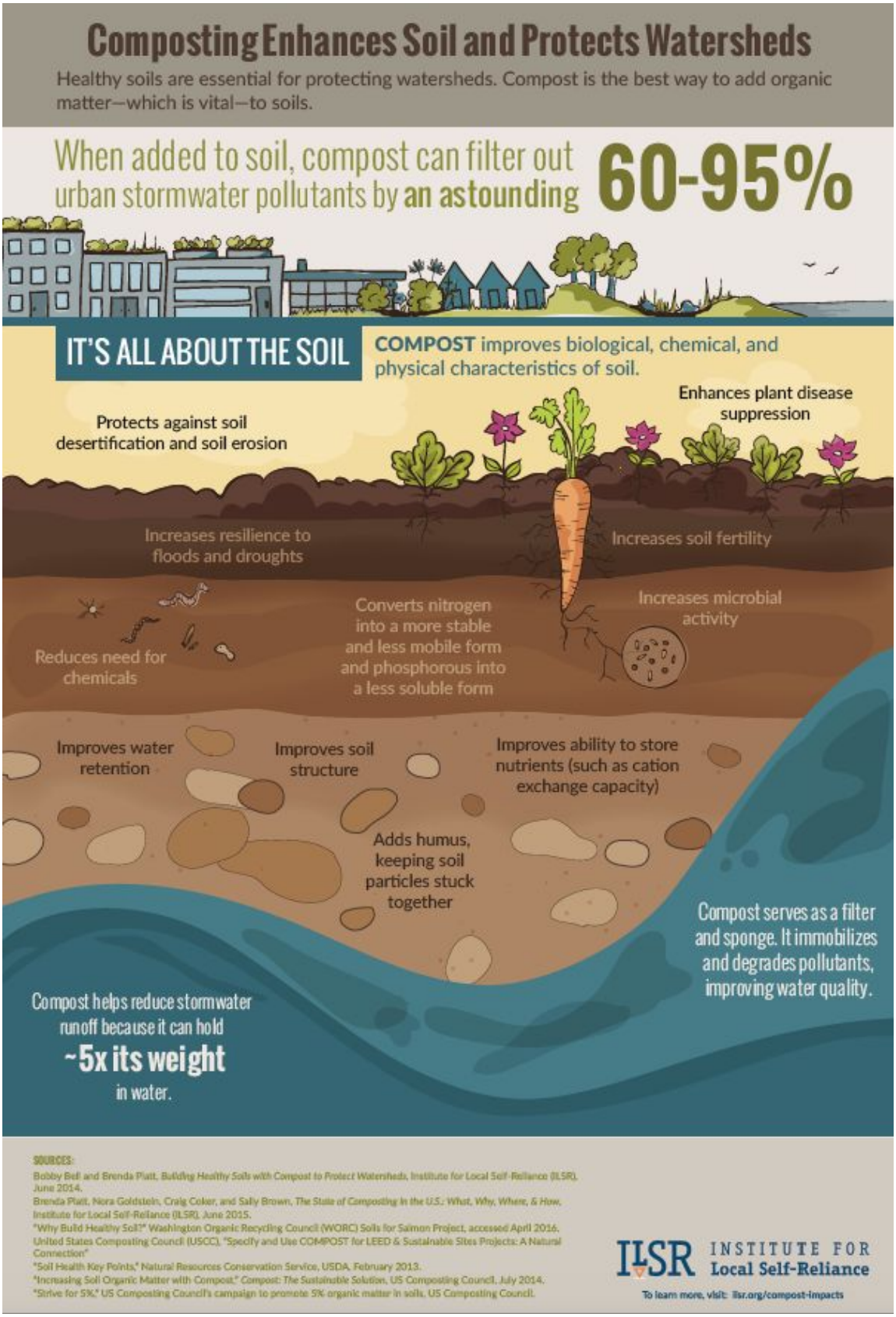
This bill will stimulate investment in and expansion of needed capacity to handle recycling of food scraps in Maryland. It will also spur more food waste prevention and rescuing of edible food to feed people.

I urge you to pass SB0483.

Attachment A: Impact of Vermont Law on Green Mountain Compost Site

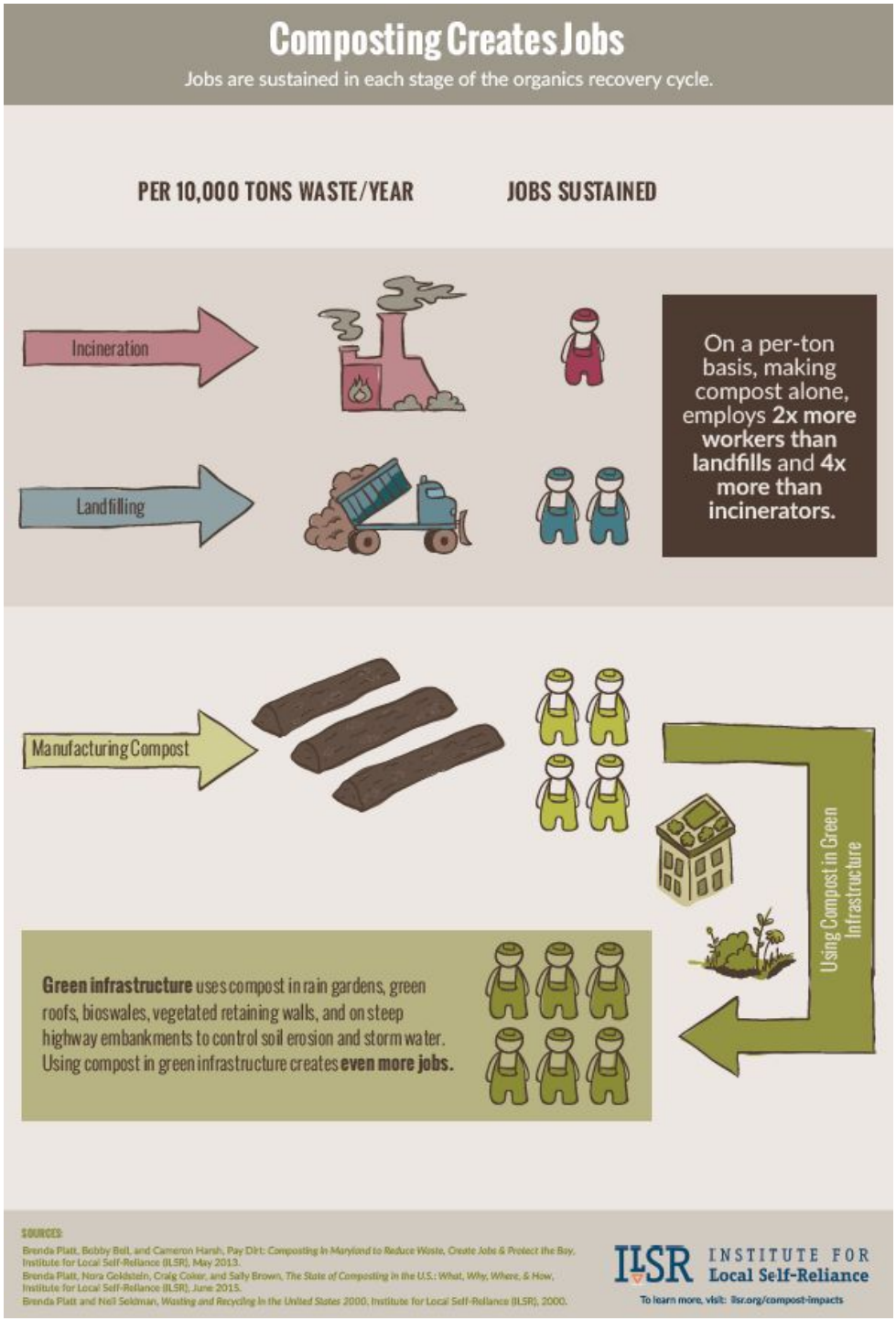


Attachment B: Compost Enhances Soil



ILSR INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

Attachment C: Composting Creates Jobs



SB483_CleanWaterAction_FAV_EmilyRanson.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Ranson, Emily
Position: FAV

SB0483 - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

Senate Environment and Transportation Committee
February 10, 2020

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

Food waste is a persistent problem, with over 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Disposing of our organic material in landfills and incinerators squanders potential benefits of compost as a climate mitigation and adaptation strategy, soil additive, and job creator. Composting turns discarded organic material into a nutrient-rich product that helps sequester carbon while improving soil health and resiliency, and employing Marylanders.

SB483 uses a phased approach to gradually require large generators of organic waste to divert their waste if facilities exist nearby that could take their waste. This allows the compost industry to build up to meet the waste generated and does not create a scramble for food waste generators. By tackling large generators who generally have waste contracts, this legislation efficiently focuses on waste streams that are already separated and heavily compostable. Compared to households, which generally produce less organic waste, are more likely to mix it in with other trash, and must have their waste individually collected by trucks, large generators produce and process their waste in one location and can more easily keep their organic waste separated. Focusing on large food waste generators as Maryland's compost business sector is developing will lead to more organic waste being diverted for less investment of time and resources.

Climate: Composting is an effective tool to reduce CO2 and methane emissions, and even to proactively sequester carbon in the ground instead of emitting it into the air. When organic waste is burned in a trash incinerator, it releases CO2 into the atmosphere, and in a landfill that organic waste becomes methane. Both gases are potent greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Diverting organic waste to compost instead of landfilling reduces greenhouse gases by more than 50%.[1] Compost also improves the carbon sequestration potential of soils.[2]

When compost is added into soil, it can actually benefit stormwater management improving resiliency efforts by absorbing stormwater runoff and filtering pollutants.[3]

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[1] Project Drawdown. "Food Composting." https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/food/composting
[2] University of California - Davis. "Compost key to sequestering carbon in the soil: Study dug deep to uncover which agricultural systems store the most carbon." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 14 August 2019. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/08/190814161818.htm>.
[3] Platt, Brenda. "The Benefits of Composting and Compost Use." Institute of Local Self-Reliance. 24 April 2016. https://ilsr.org/benefits-composting-compost/

Soil Health: Compost as a soil amendment also has significant improvements for soil health. Soil health has been in decline, in part due to our broken food system. We extract nutrients when we grow plants in soil, but if we do not put those nutrients back into the system, then the soil becomes depleted. Adding compost to our soil strategy replenishes the soil microbiome and improves soil health.

Healthy soils have a multitude of benefits, including protecting against desertification and soil erosion, increasing soil fertility, higher carbon content, enhancing natural soil suppressives - reducing the prevalence of disease and the resistance of the plant to the disease[4], and reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers by creating a resistant, nutritious soil biome.

Job Creation: Expanding composting and local compost use could support almost 1,400 new full-time jobs in Maryland, according to a 2013 study by the Institute for Local Self Reliance.[5] Expanding compost would support not just new and existing compost facilities, but also Maryland businesses that use compost for soil erosion control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and other purposes. Maryland's existing compost facilities employ 4.1 full-time equivalent jobs per 10,000 tons per year of material composted, compared to just 1.2 FTE jobs per 10,000 tons per year of material incinerated and 2.1 FTE jobs per 10,000 tons per year processed at municipal solid waste landfills. Diverting waste from incinerators and landfills to compost facilities will spur in-state construction and permanent jobs, project development, and businesses.

Prolongs Life of Landfills: Much of Maryland's waste that is currently filling up our landfills could be composted, prolonging the life of those landfills as well as bringing all of the benefits listed above. Montgomery County's 2017 Waste Characterization Study found that 43% of the trash generated in the county was organic waste.[6] Prince George's County found that 23% of the waste delivered to its landfill from commercial sources could be composted, and 28% of the waste from schools.[7] In Baltimore City, a seasonal waste sort study in summer 2019 found that 22% of commercial waste was food scraps, yard waste, or clean wood;[8] an NRDC analysis found

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[4] Bonilla, N., Gutiérrez-Barranquero, J. A., de Vicente, A., & Cazorla, F. M. (2012). Enhancing Soil Quality and Plant Health Through Suppressive Organic Amendments. Diversity (14242818), 4(4), 475–491. https://doi-org.proxy-hs.researchport.umd.edu/10.3390/d4040475

[5] Platt, Brenda, Bell, Bobby, and Cameron Harsh. "Pay Dirt: Composting in Maryland to Reduce Waste, Create Jobs, and Protect the Bay." May 2013. Institute for Local Self-Reliance. https://ilsr.org/paydirt/

[6] SCS Engineers. "2017 Waste Characterization Study Summary of Results." January 2018. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/Resources/Files/studies/waste-composition-study-2017.pdf

[7] SCS Engineers. "Waste Characterization Study Summary of Results, 2014/2015." June 2016. https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17262/Waste-Characterization-Report---FINAL-2016JUN07?bidId=

[8] Geosyntec. "Results from Second Seasonal Waste Sort." September 2019. https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/LWBBTask0SummerWasteSortReportFinalnoatt.pdf

that 72,348 tons of food waste are generated by large commercial businesses in Baltimore City.[9] Diverting these compostable materials to compost facilities would significantly prolong the life of Maryland's existing landfills.

Conclusion: Diverting waste from a trash incinerator or landfill is a potent tool that will have many benefits across Maryland, from sequestering carbon to improving soil health to spurring the local economy to prolonging the life of our existing landfills. We thank you for your consideration and urge a favorable report.

Thank you,

Emily Ranson
Maryland Director
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org
410-921-9229

[9] RRS & ILSR. "Food Scrap Recycling 2019 Landscape Assessment, Baltimore MD." https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/baltimore-food-scrap-recycling-assessment-report.pdf

SB483 - FAV - Compost Bill, GCAN.pdf
Uploaded by: Rosenthal, Lore
Position: FAV

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB483 - "Solid Waste Management--Organics Waste Management and Waste Diversion--Food Residuals"
Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Person Submitting: Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB483.

Greenbelt Climate Action Network is a local organization, which educates residents about climate change, "systemic" solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

We urge you to vote favorably for SB483. The bill will serve to reduce methane and other greenhouse gasses and toxic pollutants emitted by landfills, incinerators, and agriculture; reduce run off to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; rebuild healthy soils; create jobs; and divert otherwise wasted food to food pantries.

Bill Requirements: This Organics Recycling bill would require entities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week AND that are within 30 miles of a compost or other food recovery facility to compost or otherwise divert this material from the waste stream through donations, reduction, or anaerobic digestion. In 2024, the requirement would apply to entities that produce more than one ton of food waste per week.

Food Donations: SB483 also allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, food donation increased by at least 30%, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

More than 25% food supply wasted: Food waste is a persistent problem, with more than 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Large generators of food waste produce most of the organic waste in the state. This bill addresses that group of waste generators.

Stimulates economic development: Moreover, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion bill will stimulate investment in and expansion of new facilities, to handle recycling of food waste as well as encourage economic development by bringing businesses to Maryland.

Creates jobs: It will help to accomplish these goals while at the same time supporting local food systems and creating green jobs in Maryland. Expanding composting and local compost use could support almost 1,400 new full-time jobs in Maryland, according to a 2013 study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Expanding compost would support both new and existing compost facilities, and also support Maryland businesses that use compost for soil erosion control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and other purposes.

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions: Diversion of food waste from landfills and incinerators will reduce landfill methane emissions and toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO2 in its first 20 years after emission.

According to the EPA, food scraps and food waste are the largest portion of waste sent by municipalities to landfills and incinerators, accounting for as much as 51 percent of waste. According to the 2017 book *"Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming,"* reducing food waste offers solutions to the number three cause of global warming.

Builds Healthy Soils & Reduces Runoff: Food scraps and waste are an excellent source of material for making compost and adding compost to our soils results in building healthy soils. Healthy soils and the plants that grow in them, hold carbon in the ground, sequestering carbon.

For all these reasons (food recovery, food waste, economic development, good green jobs, reduction in greenhouse gas (ethane) emissions, building healthy soils, and carbon sequestration), **we urge you to vote favorably for SB483.**

Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
2-R Gardenway
Greenbelt, MD 20770

SB483_PIRG_WST_composting.pdf
Uploaded by: Scarr, Emily
Position: FAV

SB483 - Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
February10th, 2021
Position: Favorable

Maryland PIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government. We are a Baltimore based, statewide, non-partisan, non-profit, citizen-funded public interest advocacy organization with members across the state.

Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space. We have thousands of members across the state and are based in Baltimore.

Our groups support this bill to expand organics recycling and reduce waste. The adjustments to last year's bill should make this bill a manageable step for businesses that produce large amounts of organic materials to take to divert organic material from the waste stream through donations, reduction, or anaerobic digestion.

There is something beautiful about compost. It's a simple concept, it's tried and true.

- It offers a path to eliminate waste, and the troubles that come with mishandling organic waste - especially dirty air and water from incinerators and landfills.
- It helps fight climate change - putting that valuable carbon back into the environment in a good way, revitalizing soils and reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

According to Maryland PIRG's report "Composting in America: A Path to Eliminate Waste, Revitalize Soil and Tackle Global Warming," composting all organic waste - including food scraps and yard trimmings - could eliminate nearly one-third of all materials sent to landfills and trash incinerators across the United States.

Emily Scarr, Maryland PIRG Director emily@marylandpirg.org
Kate Breimann, Environment Maryland Director kbreimann@envrionmentmaryland.org

One of the best practices we recommend in the report is setting up policies that require large commercial organic waste producers to divert waste from landfills and incinerators to composting facilities, which is what this bill will do. By gradually phasing in the largest generators of organic waste, this bill focuses on waste streams that are easily compostable without putting any undue burden on Maryland businesses.

In addition to preventing new methane from entering our atmosphere, composting helps plants and microorganisms to thrive which then pulls carbon out of the atmosphere. One model in the Maryland PIRG report found that applying compost to 50 percent of California's land used for grazing could sequester the amount of carbon currently emitted by California's homes and businesses.[1]

Compost is a nutrient rich additive to soil that can take the place of unsustainable chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The use of chemical fertilizers is of particular concern to Maryland. Last year, the dead zone in the Bay was the largest it has ever been and we know that nutrient runoff is one major reason for this growth. Chemical fertilizers can fuel algal blooms, kill fish, and contaminate the water. Chemical fertilizers deplete soil long term and they produce nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is up to 310 times as potent as carbon dioxide over a 100 year period. Continuing to rely on such a toxic alternative doesn't make any sense when we have the ability to create compost with waste we already create.

We urge you to vote favorably.

[1] Composting in America, Maryland PIRG and Frontier Group, 2019 https://marylandpirg.org/reports/mdp/composting-america.

JSkillman Compost_Food Recovery Testimony - Google

Uploaded by: Skillman, Jane

Position: FAV

February 8, 2021

Testimony on SB0483/HB0264
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore
Person Submitting: **Jane Skillman**
Position: Favorable

My name is Jane Skillman, a resident of Baltimore, District 7. I am a member of the Sunrise Movement Baltimore, a movement led by young people fighting against the climate crisis. This testimony represents my support for SB0483/HB0264, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion Act.

Food waste produces methane, a very potent greenhouse gas that contributes to the climate crisis. Methane yields 84 times more efficacy compared to CO2 at trapping heat in our atmosphere.[1] The USDA estimates that 30-40% of our food supply is wasted at a retail and consumer level.[2] That is a lot of waste! This food waste is the single largest source of waste in landfills and incinerators and the third largest source of methane in landfills in the US according to the EPA,[3] not to mention how the invaluable environmental and labor resources continue to be wasted to grow and transport this soon-to-be-wasted food.

Here in Baltimore that waste is incinerated and creates toxic air pollution too. Baltimore has among the highest rates of breathing related diseases of cities in the country and we Baltimore residents spend $55 million annually on health costs related to burning trash.[4] Composting is an essential part of reducing incineration and landfill use and increasing reuse and recycling.

The first easy solution to this problem is to combat food waste and feed our communities. Businesses and organizations should donate their extra food to help those fighting food insecurity. In the US, 1 in 9 people and 1 in 6 children struggle with hunger, and in 2018 11% of Marylanders struggled with food insecurity.[5] That number has only grown with the pandemic.

Second, food that cannot be donated should be composted for communities to reap its innumerable benefits. Compost nourishes our soil to grow more food and plants, reduces and/or

[1] https://mde.state.md.us/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/MWGMDEPres02242017.pdf
[2] https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/why
[3] Ibid.
[4] https://ilsr.org/report-baltimore-zero-waste/
[5] https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/maryland

eliminates the need for toxic pesticides and herbicides, improves water retention, and even sequesters carbon from our atmosphere. It can be used in habitat and wetlands revitalization and to improve contaminated and marginal soils.

In Baltimore and throughout Maryland, compost can be used for community gardens and farms to grow local food and combat food insecurity. Urban and suburban farming also helps to fight the more extremes of the urban heat island effect and frequent flooding our cities endure due to climate change. There are plenty of benefits to compost use in our own communities.

Compost and food recovery would provide many full-time jobs in our communities. According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, composting would create twice as many jobs as landfills.[6] This bill will provide economic benefits to new and existing composting facilities and those working in soil remediation. We must grow green jobs to move Maryland forward!

I was living in Toronto when they started the Green Bin program in 2006 -- a city-wide program to collect compost. It's an incredibly successful system that has been adopted by many other cities. As of March 2006, it was diverting 100,000 tonnes from the landfill each year. All that to say, this do-able, and an easy way to reduce our waste burden.

The Organic Recycling and Waste Diversion Bill will not only help Maryland fight climate change by reducing emissions, food waste, and improving soil health, but help feed food-insecure Marylanders and provide green jobs in our communities.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jane Skillman
3632 Keystone Avenue
Baltimore, MD
District 7

[6]https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Documents/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Composting%20in%20Maryland.pdf

SB0483_CBF_SUPPORT_DavidTana.pdf
Uploaded by: Tana, David
Position: FAV

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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

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 or 443.995.8753

Maryland Office ▪ Philip Merrill Environmental Center ▪ 6 Herndon Avenue ▪ Annapolis ▪ Maryland ▪ 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 ▪ Fax (410) 280-3513

SB483 - Solid Waste Management-Organics Recycling

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FAV

7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: **Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

Testimony on: SB 483 "Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals"

Position: **Support**

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB 483. This bill will produce many environmental and economic benefits related to diversion of food residuals, increased food donation, and production and use of compost. Large-scale generators of food waste located within 30 miles of an organics recycling facility would have to separate and divert their food residuals by donating servable food, managing the food residuals in an on-site system, providing the residuals for agricultural use, and/or delivering the food residuals to an organics recycling facility for composting or anaerobic digestion. The organics recycling facility must be willing and able to accept and process food residuals by composting or anaerobic digestion.

The many environmental and economic benefits of this bill for our state include:

- **Diverting organic waste from landfills and incinerators.** The 2016 Maryland Waste Characterization Study found that food waste is the most prevalent material in the state's municipal landfills – nearly 18% of municipal solid waste (MSW) by weight – and that approximately 30% of MSW overall is compostable and divertible.[1] Landfill space in Maryland is already in critically short supply, with existing capacity to last 31 years.[2] Diversion of food waste will reduce costs to counties and taxpayers for waste disposal and conserve space in landfills for waste that cannot be diverted.

- **Contributing to reaching Maryland's Zero Waste food scrap goals of 60% diversion by 2025, 70% by 2030, and 90% by 2040.**[3] To achieve these targets, the state's Zero Waste Plan advocates for increasing food donation, promoting compost use, and phasing in a food scrap disposal ban in commercial and institutional organizations – all of which are promoted by this bill.

- **Reducing future methane emissions from anaerobic decomposition of food waste in landfills.** When organic matter such as food residuals decomposes anaerobically in a tightly compacted landfill, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide.

- **Promoting food donation for humans and livestock.** Donating servable food would supplement local food pantries. In Vermont, which enacted a similar law in 2014, "food rescue" nearly tripled at local food banks by 2017.[4] Diversion of food waste for animal feed further reduces the environmental impacts of growing crops for animal feed.

[1] MSW Consultants. 2017. "2016 Maryland Statewide Waste Characterization Study: Final Report." MDE, July. Figure ES-3.
[2] Department of Legislative Services, Office of Policy Analysis. 2017. "Solid Waste Management and Recycling in Maryland." Annapolis, Maryland. p. vii. (http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NatRes/January-2017-Waste-Management-in-Maryland.pdf)
[3] Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). 2014. "Zero Waste Maryland: Maryland's Plan to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Nearly All Waste Generated in Maryland by 2040." December.
[4] Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. 2019. "Vermont's Universal Recycling Law – Status Report." January.

- **Conserving resources and increasing the use of compost, a valuable soil amendment for gardeners and local farmers.** Compost from diverted food waste is a valuable resource and an opportunity for farmers to reduce their reliance on chemical fertilizers that pollute air and water and are a petroleum product requiring energy to produce. At the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility in Upper Marlboro – the largest food waste composting facility on the East Coast – Leafgro Gold, a soil amendment made from composted food waste, is in great demand for both gardening and agricultural applications. The product is used locally and in neighboring states (Pennsylvania and Virginia).

- **Creating green businesses and jobs by incentivizing investment in food waste recycling facilities statewide.** During a phase-in period, the largest generators of food waste (over two tons of food per week) are the first to be required to divert their food residuals, followed by businesses that generate over one ton of food per week by 2024. These staggered dates for enforcement allow time for businesses to adjust operations and for the organics recycling industry to invest in greater processing capacity in Maryland. The bill incentivizes these facilities to locate within a convenient distance of major food waste generators (30 miles), reducing hauling costs to businesses and the environmental impact of transport. In Vermont, a similar law incentivizing diversion of food waste is credited with creating 900 jobs, increasing gross state product by $77 million, and increasing state and local tax revenue by more than $5 million in the first two years of implementation.[5]

With the enactment of SB 483, Maryland would join other states that have adopted policies to dramatically ramp up diversion of food waste from the waste stream. In addition to Vermont,[6] Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York City, and Rhode Island have enacted similar legislation on organics recycling and food waste diversion, with success.[7] A screening-level cost/benefit analysis on the effects of statewide legislation in New York by the State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) found that the social benefits of the legislation outweigh the costs by $15 million to $23 million, depending on whether achieved by composting or anaerobic digestion.[8] Societal benefits from increased food donation, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, avoided tipping fees, and increased electricity production were not considered. Net social benefits in subsequent years would increase due to the exclusion of one-time costs.

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SB 483. Diverting food waste from the waste stream would conserve space in our landfills, reduce future greenhouse gas emissions, create green businesses and jobs, and benefit the agricultural sector and local food movement. It is an important step on the path to zero waste.

Martha Ainsworth
Chapter Zero Waste Team Chair
martha.ainsworth@mdsierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

[5] From October 2014 to December 2016. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. 2019. "Vermont's Universal Recycling Law – Status Report." January.

[6] Act 148, enacted unanimously by the Vermont legislature in 2012, is a universal recycling and composting law that offers a new set of systems and tools for keeping as much as possible out of the landfill. Phased in over time, starting with largest generators, it is "designed to encourage the development of infrastructure and systems that will enable everyone in Vermont to keep reusable resources out of the landfill and make progress in energy and resource conservation." Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Vermont. 2020. "Act 148: Universal Recycling & Composting Law." See https://cswd.net/about-cswd/universal-recycling-law-act-148/ and https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/universal-recycling.

[7] https://ilsr.org/rule/food-scrap-ban/

[8] Industrial Economics, Incorporated. 2017. "Benefit Cost Analysis of Potential Food Waste Diversion Legislation," NYSERDA Report 17-06, Albany, New York. March, p. 20.

SB483-fav-CJW-compostorganicrecycling.pdf
Uploaded by: Younts, Diana
Position: FAV

CLIMATE JUSTICE WING
MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE COALITION

Committee: **Education, Health & Environmental Affairs**
Testimony on: **SB483 - "Solid Waste Management--Organics Waste Management and Waste Diversion--Food Residuals"**
Organization: **MLC Climate Justice Wing**
Person Submitting: **Diana Younts, co-chair**
Position: **Favorable**
Hearing Date: **February 10, 2021**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB483. We urge you to vote favorably for SB483. The bill will serve to reduce methane and other greenhouse gasses and toxic pollutants emitted by landfills, incinerators, and agriculture; reduce run off to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; rebuild healthy soils; create jobs; and promote donations to food pantries.

Food Donations: SB483 allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, **food donation increased by at least 30%**, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

More than 25% food supply wasted: 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Large generators, those that produce more than one ton per week of food waste, produce more than half of Maryland's organic waste. According to the EPA, food scraps and food waste are the largest portion of waste sent by municipalities to landfills and incinerators, accounting for as much as 24 % of waste.

Reduces greenhouse gas emissions: Diversion of food waste from landfills and incinerators will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO2 in its first 20 years after emission.

Builds Healthy Soils & Reduces Runoff: Food waste is an excellent source of material for making compost and adding compost to our soils results in building healthy soils. Healthy soils and the plants that grow in them, hold and sequester carbon in the ground., are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, are stable, and retain water.

We need sustainable, long term solutions to managing our organic waste and supporting the growth of composting is a win-win strategy.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably for SB483.

Submitted by:

MLC Climate Justice Wing:
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement
Clean Water Action
Maryland Sierra Club
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
HoCo Climate Action
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/ National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Ji'Aire's Workgroup
Laurel Resist
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
Wicomico NAACP
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network

SB483-fav-tpmec-Compostbill.pdf
Uploaded by: Younts, Diana
Position: FAV

TAKOMA PARK MOBILIZATION

Environment Committee

Committee:	**Education, Health & Environmental Affairs**
Testimony on:	**SB483 - "Solid Waste Management--Organics Waste Management and Waste Diversion--Food Residuals"**
Organization:	**Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee**
Person Submitting:	**Diana Younts, co-chair**
Position:	**Favorable**
Hearing Date:	**February 10, 2021**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB483. We urge you to vote favorably for SB483. The bill will further Montgomery County's zero waste and climate action plans; serve to reduce methane and other greenhouse gasses and toxic pollutants emitted by landfills, incinerators, and agriculture; reduce run off to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; rebuild healthy soils; and create jobs.

More than 25% food supply wasted: More than 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Large generators, those that produce more than one ton of food waste per week, produce more than half of Maryland's organic waste.

Food Donations: SB483 also allows food donation as a waste reduction strategy. When similar legislation passed in Vermont, **food donation increased by at least 30%**, taking usable food and getting it into the hands of food banks and hungry people.

Reduces Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions: According to the EPA, food scraps and food waste are the largest portion of waste sent by municipalities to landfills and incinerators, accounting for as much as 24% of waste. Diversion of food waste from landfills and incinerators will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than CO2 in its first 20 years after emission.

Complements Montgomery County's Zero Waste Plan: Composting Montgomery County's organic waste is an essential component of its Zero Waste Plan and to that end, Montgomery County has instituted a pilot project to compost food waste generated by certain businesses. One of the biggest barriers to achieving its zero waste goals is the lack of a sufficient number of

nearby, composting facilities. This bill will stimulate investment in and expansion of needed capacity to handle recycling of food waste and in the process create jobs to support that expansion.

Complements Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan: The bill also supports Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan by reducing Montgomery County's greenhouse gas emissions from the Dickerson incinerator. Diversion of food waste from that incinerator will also reduce toxic emissions from the incinerator. The Dickerson trash incinerator is the single largest industrial emitter of air pollutants in Montgomery County, producing approximately 740 tons of air pollutants and sends 180,000 tons of toxic ash to landfills in Virginia.

Builds Healthy Soils & Reduces Runoff: Food waste is an excellent source of material for making compost and adding compost to our soils results in building healthy soils. Healthy soils and the plants that grow in them, hold and sequester carbon in the ground. Healthy soils are rich in microbes, high in organic matter, are stable, and retain water.

We need sustainable, long term solutions to managing our organic waste and supporting the growth of composting is a win-win strategy.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably for SB483.

SB483 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling

Uploaded by: Sterrette, Dawana

Position: FWA

BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
Chair, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support with Amendments
Senate Bill 483
Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion
Food Residuals

February 10, 2021

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports the efforts contained in Senate Bill 483 and supports with amendments to make it possible for the school district to comply with the mandates.

The school board has been proactive in reducing food waste, including:

- Using paper-board trays instead of polystyrene trays
- Using compostable spork kit instead of plastic cutlery
- Piloting temperature sensors in refrigeration units
- Trained all FNS staff on ways to reduce food waste, including through improved marketing and presentation
- Partnering with food rescue operations for produce boxes
- Investing in farm-to-school education via our Great Kids Farm
- Supported the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability's Zero Waste Plan

The school board would therefore like to support the bill, but as written, it has large operational and financial implications with no associated funding, therefore the school board suggest the following amendments to be considered and adopted in order for the school system to comply with the requirements:

1. **Include funding for implementation.** Costs to comply include:
   - Staff training and time – support from the Schools Office and individual principals will be crucial,
   - An FTE position at the district office would be helpful to allow a centralized focus on ensuring compliance.
   - Education for students and school community
   - Materials for composting stations (bins, buckets, toter, dolly, etc.)
   - Storage containers
   - Hauling/processing fees (note that if successful, we may be able to reduce the frequency of trash pick-up, which could result in some cost savings but would not offset the new costs)

2. **Phase in the compliance period.**
   - Rather than requiring all schools to comply at once, a phased-in approach would allow school systems to pilot in a subset of schools before expanding to all.

3. **Clarify that if a processing facility exists within 30 miles, it must have the capacity to handle the food waste.**

- While there is a facility within 30 miles of some of our schools (though not our district office), it is currently unwilling to accept our large volume of waste.

The goals of this legislation are admirable. Based on the foregoing, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports SB 483 with amendments.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038

SB0483-EHE_MACo_OPP.pdf
Uploaded by: Butler, Alex
Position: UNF

MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

Senate Bill 483

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

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Date: February 10, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) OPPOSES SB 483 as it would mandate many facilities to direct food residuals to specific composting facilities. While MACo generally shares in the goal to increase food residual composting, the specific mandates in SB 483 could inappropriately place many challenging and burdensome requirements on local government facilities.

SB 483 requires facilities that generate food residuals in certain volumes (starting with two tons per week in 2023) to separate residuals from other solid waste and divert them to an organic composting facility within 30 miles. Currently, Maryland has a rather limited number of organic composting facilities, and a requirement that residuals be diverted to these facilities could lead to a significant rise in costs for local government facilities.

Large local government facilities like jails and schools could apparently be subject to the bill's requirements, and would therefore need to determine whether the provisions in the bill apply, and then undergo costly changes to the way they handle food residuals. Even the mere determination of whether a given facility is covered by the bill's provisions could trigger outside consulting costs, as these matters are beyond the expertise of wardens, school facility staff, and others within local government.

Amidst a health pandemic and an accompanying fiscal uncertainty, counties are struggling to maintain service levels to meet essential needs – including in educational and correctional facilities. Placing an added cost burden onto those facilities will only divert resources. MACo believes that the bill should not apply to local government-owned facilities.

MACo recognizes the intent of SB 483 but believes it poses significant cost and implementation challenges. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to provide an **UNFAVORABLE** report for SB 483.

169 Conduit Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
410.269.0043 BALT/ANNAP ◆ 301.261.1140 WASH DC ◆ 410.268.1775 FAX
www.mdcounties.org

SB0483_UNF_NWRA_Organics Recycling & Waste Diversi
Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam
Position: UNF

wasterecycling.org

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the
National Waste & Recycling Association℠
Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Shelly Hettleman

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 10, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 483 – *Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals*

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** Senate Bill 483.

Senate Bill 483 requires entities that generate food residuals in certain volumes to separate the residuals from other solid waste and ensure the residuals are not disposed of in a refuse disposal system if there is an organics recycling facility within a 30-mile radius. The bill also specifies ways in which an entity must source, separate, and manage food residuals, many of which may be limited by other laws and regulations such as food donation and for use as animal feed. Senate Bill 483 is essentially a disposal ban for large generators of food waste despite the lack of adequate infrastructure for organics recycling to manage the volumes specified in the legislation.

This legislation is undoubtedly designed to stimulate the development of composting facilities and anaerobic digestion facilities within the State and increase the amount of organic waste which is recycled. While MDSWA is a strong proponent of organics recycling and appreciates the intent of the legislation, it must oppose its adoption as the requirements of the bill cannot realistically be implemented in the timeframes proposed in the bill or without significant costs to the State, local governments, and the businesses and institutions to which the disposal ban would apply.

The barriers to effective implementation include a lack of permitted capacity and "one size fits all" requirements that do not recognize that collection, hauling, disposal and recycling infrastructure that must be inherently "local" to be effective and efficient. The cost of collection, population density, transportation costs, facility location and capacity, as well as a myriad of other factors require local planning and implementation and should not be mandated statewide. The goals of Senate Bill 483 are notable, but the infrastructure to implement does not exist.

In addition, there is virtually no data currently available to determine how many businesses and institutions may be affected by this legislation. Hospitals, colleges, nursing homes, food distribution facilities, grocery stores, state office complexes, and correctional facilities all potentially will be forced to redesign their management of waste without any assurance there will be facilities available to meet their demand or the cost implications of the redesign. MDSWA cannot speak for those businesses and institutions but is confident they may not even be aware of this initiative let alone know how to respond.

MDSWA was a member of the *Yard Waste, Food Residuals and Other Organic Materials Diversion and Infrastructure Study Group* that was created through legislation in 2017. The legislation required the Maryland Department of the Environment to study and make recommendations related to the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials from refuse disposal facilities; and to evaluate the status of infrastructure in the State. The bill required the Department to consult with multiple stakeholders to conduct the study. The data considered by the Workgroup on organics generation and recycling capacity revealed a shortfall in capacity (for food residuals, in particular), and the study group discussed initiatives that may promote the development of new composting and anaerobic digestion capacity. Disposal bans were considered as an option for promoting capacity.

While some workgroup members were strong proponents of a disposal ban, other members noted that in States that have implemented such bans faced challenges in realizing infrastructure growth. Some states reported that insufficient processing infrastructure capacity has persisted, and Vermont, in 2018, delayed the requirement for haulers to collect food residuals. These experiences suggest that increased feedstock availability, resulting from a disposal ban, may not always lead to a proportionate increase of investment into processing infrastructure, at least not immediately or in the absence of other infrastructure supporting policies. The operator of a private composting facility in Maryland observed that disposal bans adopted in other states have led to greater investment into anaerobic digestion infrastructure than composting infrastructure. One study group member had concerns about the availability of organics haulers and the costs for businesses to comply and suggested that continued evaluation is needed before a recommendation for a disposal ban should be made. Ultimately, the Department did not include in this report a recommendation to adopt a new or expanded disposal ban on organics. Furthermore, legislation was adopted in the 2019 Session that prohibits an owner or operator of a refuse disposal system from accepting truckloads of separately collected yard or food waste for final disposal unless the owner or operator provides for composting or mulching of the material. That legislation addressed some of the objectives of this bill without creating unintended consequences and costs.

MDSWA encourages the members of the Committee to review the findings and recommendations of the Study Group's final report published in July 2019, which provides a number of consensus recommendations on advancing the recycling of food residuals, specifically, and organic material, generally.

See: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/House-Bill-171-%E2%80%93-Organic-Materials-Diversion-and-Infrastructure-%E2%80%93-Study.aspx.

MDSWA would assert that market development is a much more successful approach to stimulating the development of facilities and the infrastructure to serve those facilities than mandating their use and banning disposal when there may not be a cost-effective option available. MDSWA urges an unfavorable report.

For more information call:
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

MdSNA Testimony SB 483.pdf
Uploaded by: LeTourneau, Marla
Position: UNF

Maryland SB 483

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

Recommended Position:

Support_____ Support with Amendment_____ Oppose__X____ No Position_____

The Maryland School Nutrition Association (MdSNA) represents the thousands of school food service employees across the State of Maryland who continue to serve on the front lines during the pandemic to feed students in Maryland. As President of MdSNA, this testimony is presented to provide them a voice.

School foodservice departments throughout the State work to ensure that all food is prepared and served in a sanitary and efficient manner so as not to create food loss due to over-production or incorrect handling. Records are kept on meal trends and daily production of food is batch-cooked, so over production of meals is kept to a minimum. Through extensive sanitation training, staff are taught how to reheat leftovers in a safe manner so they may be offered as an additional meal selection. Our food production remnants are kept at the utmost minimum, resulting in very small amounts of food waste that could be composted.

There is much to be said about "plate waste", or uneaten food, on the trays of the students who receive a school lunch. In order to reduce food loss of school breakfast and lunch, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance in 2016, to all child nutrition programs, to begin "Share Tables" in their programs. These are stations where children may return whole food or beverage items they choose not to eat, if it is incompliance with local and State health and food safety codes. These food and beverage

items are then available to other children who may want additional servings. The process provides additional nutrition for students and reduces food waste.

Local schools do not have control over waste generated from home-packed meals. If the food amounts do raise to the level indicated in HB264, the processing of that waste will provide a financial hardship on the already under-funded local school systems.

Labor costs will increase as there will need to be someone in the school assigned to make sure that the children are disposing of food in the correct container. The building service workers (custodial) will need to spend additional labor hours in the collection and transportation of the food for processing.

Schools will face increased equipment costs, such as food disposal containers and additional sanitation needs. If a compost company is contracted, the school food service department will incur an additional cost.

As part of the overall school team that works to support the education of children by serving nutritious and healthy meals, food service departments are not in the business to develop organic recycling systems on-site (pg. 4, line 2); a true financial burden that we are not able to undertake with our limited funding.

This bill would create an undue hardship on the 24 food service entities in Maryland. Rest assured, our industry is committed to finding new and innovative ways to reduce food waste while continuing to provide the proper nutrition to students throughout the State.

Thank you for your time and attention to review this testimony.

Terri E. Smith, SNS
President, Maryland School Nutrition Association

AACPS SB483 Residual Food Waster OPP 2.10.21.pdf
Uploaded by: Ortiz, Jeanette
Position: UNF

ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-222-5000 · 301-970-8644 (WASH) · 410-222-5500 (TDD) | www.aacps.org

SB483 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals

February 10, 2021
EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB483 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals**. This bill requires certain generators of large quantities of "food residuals" to separate the food residuals from other solid waste and ensure that the food residuals are diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system, as specified. The implementation timeline for this requirement is staggered, based on weekly tonnages of food residuals, beginning January 1, 2023. Affected generators may apply for a waiver. The Maryland Department of the Environment must establish related guidelines and mapping systems as well as a plan to implement the bill, as specified. Finally, the bill establishes several reporting requirements and civil penalties for violations.

This legislation is an unfunded mandate that would result in an expenditure of approximately $2 million per year, inclusive of additional staffing, equipment, storage, transport, and disposal costs. AACPS would be required to establish, equip, staff, manage, and pay for the various elements and components required to comply with this legislation. Specifically, new storage containers and space would be required both inside and outside of each AACPS school and office facility. Additionally, additional staffing would be needed in Food and Nutrition Services to perform the requisite tasks required to disaggregate, store, transport, and dispose of food residuals. AACPS would further be required to enter into new contractual service agreements for the proper transport and disposal costs associated with food residuals on a daily basis since long-term storage could lead to increased pest activity and nuisance animals, thus necessitating additional precautions and costs associated with enhanced integrated pest management plans.

AACPS is also concerned with the equity impacts of this proposed legislation. Costs associated with complying with this legislation would potentially lead to increases in breakfast and lunch meal prices for students as well as diversion of revenue from other critical areas such as instructional or student support activities designed to support the AACPS Strategic Plan and enhance educational equity.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB483.

SB 483.Food Waste Residuals Recycling Mandate.pdf
Uploaded by: Woolums, John
Position: UNF

MABE
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-5414 · 800-841-8197 · Fax: 410-841-6580 · MABE.org

BILL: **Senate Bill 483**
TITLE: **Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals**
DATE: **February 10, 2021**
POSITION: **OPPOSE**
COMMITTEE: **Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**
CONTACT: **John R. Woolums, Esq.**

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 483, due to the uniform, mandated, and costly staffing and waste management responsibilities imposed by the bill's requirements for the recycling/composting of food waste generated by local school systems.

MABE consistently supports funding and policy decisions to strengthen school meal programs to provide healthy food for all students and expand access for economically disadvantaged students. In this context, MABE is concerned about the unintended consequences of imposing new costs on school food service programs that would compete with, and therefore potentially detract from, our efforts to utilize existing and too often scarce resources to support school meal programs.

Senate Bill 483 would require school systems to budget for and implement new programs to separate the food residuals from other solid waste and ensure that the food residuals are diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system by:

- reducing the amount of food residuals generated;
- donating servable food;
- managing the food residuals in an organics recycling system installed on–site;
- providing for the collection and transportation of the food residuals for agricultural use, including for use as animal feed;
- providing for the collection and transportation of the food residuals for processing in an organics recycling facility; or
- any combination of the above.

Clearly, this is an extensive set of well-intendent requirements which are currently unfunded and unbudgeted. MABE believes that whether implemented in whole or in part, these requirements would impose substantial costs as well as unsupported demands on food services and facilities staff. To the extent that additional staff are required to carry out these new tasks, equipment must be purchased, and hauling contracts must be developed, without additional state or local funding these new requirements would, foreseeably, negatively impact a school system's ability to sustain other food service and facilities services.

MABE does appreciate the provisions of the bill extending dates for mandated implementation and providing for waivers. However, once enacted, this new law would set in motion a significant unfunded mandate for local school systems.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 483.