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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB116 - Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2021, 11AM**

In 2017, China reduced imports of American plastic recyclables by 99% as part of [stringent new purity requirements](#). China's reasoning included that our recycled materials were filled with too much trash. Previously one of the largest buyers of recycled materials, this completely [upended](#) our international recycling trade.

China's actions left Maryland's sorted materials with nowhere to go. Instead, products sit in warehouses or are shipped out of state, [wasting taxpayer money](#). In Montgomery County, bales of recycled mixed paper used to bring in \$155 per ton; they now yield only \$10 per ton. Between 2015 and 2018, Carroll County went from **earning** \$15 per ton for recyclables to **paying** \$20 per ton. In Prince George's County, revenue from recovered paper, cans, bottles, and plastics was approximately \$750,000 in 2017. By late 2018, the County had [lost nearly \\$2.7 million](#) in sales and processing costs.

[SB116](#) would require the Office of Recycling in the Department of Environment to promote the development of markets for recycled products in Maryland. It would identify current methods for collecting and sorting recyclables that are in need of updates; assess the need to expand processing facilities or construct new locations; and create a campaign to entice companies manufacturing sustainable products to migrate to Maryland, causing a circular effect. [California](#) and [Florida](#) have already enacted similar legislation.

Del. Dana Stein introduced this as [HB1452](#) last year. It passed the House unanimously but ran out of time when the Senate adjourned early due to COVID. The world is heading towards increased sustainability and green business; Maryland must adapt.

I urge a favorable report on SB116.