



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony for HB 807 –
Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act**

Last interim I participated in the Chair's Workgroup on Waste & Recycling. The workgroup sent a survey to all the counties and Baltimore City; sixteen jurisdictions returned our survey. Many jurisdictions offered suggestions as to how to amend the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) to give more flexibility to jurisdictions and to more accurately count the materials they collect. Among these suggestions were adding cooking oil, windshields, and construction & demolition debris to the MRA as materials that would count to a county's recycling rate.

Following the workgroup, Chair Barve, Workgroup Chair Lierman and I sent a letter to Secretary Grumbles laying out the amendments suggested by the jurisdictions. In his response, the Secretary laid out some of the challenges that adopting those amendments would pose. After talking with many stakeholders, we agreed that rather than amending the MRA in bits and pieces, it made more sense to establish a task force. This task force would consist of a number of stakeholders and will address amending the MRA in a holistic manner. One of the key questions the task force will address is: are we counting the right things? That is, are the materials that we are counting towards a recycling rate the materials whose collection will help the environment? This is a key question that must be answered by the stakeholders before we can add or subtract certain materials.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report.