

**Bill Title: Senate Bill 304, Maryland Recycling Act - Recyclable Materials and Resource Recovery Facilities - Alterations**

**Committee: Education, Health and Environment Committee**

**Date: January 21, 2021**

**Position: Favorable**

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC), a world leader in the finance, design, construction, engineering, and operation of anaerobic digestion facilities. With more than 220 anaerobic digestors built throughout the world, our expert team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers and marketing experts has over 20 years' experience in the finance, design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support with insured and guaranteed operation of each plant. We are proud to call Howard County and Maryland our US home.

Senate Bill 304 repeals a county's authority to use one or more resource recovery facilities (that were in operation as of January 1, 1988) to achieve a 5% reduction in its solid waste stream for the purposes of meeting required solid waste reductions and mandatory recycling rates under the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA). This bill excludes incinerator ash from the definition of "recyclable materials" for the purposes of the MRA and makes conforming changes, including repealing the definition of a "resource recovery facility."

To achieve waste reduction and energy goals, incineration is not the answer. It is expensive, inefficient, and creates environmental as well as health risks. Senate Bill 304 recognizes this and recommends decisive steps forward. We must bolster our efforts to reuse, recycle and identify sustainable options. BDC uses anaerobic digestion to recycle organics once destined for incineration or already crowded landfills. This process creates renewable natural gas and an organic digestate or soil amendment that furthers healthy living soils. Passage of Senate Bill 304 encourages reduction of waste stream and sustainable waste practices.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 304**.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Greenfield at 410.446.1992