



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
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