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BILL NO.: **HB 807**

TITLE: Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems
in Maryland

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

DATE: March 31, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 807 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. This legislation would require the state to convene a work group to evaluate regional waste and update the Maryland Recycling Act.

Changes in the recycling system, increases in local populations, and high demands for pandemic related single use items has led to an abundance of solid waste in the state needing immediate attention. Furthermore, outdated recycling procedures run counter to the environmental priorities of Baltimore County. This is why Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has made solving this issue a session priority of his. The County’s Eastern Sanitary Landfill is reaching capacity and other regional jurisdictions are finding themselves in the same spot. While there have been attempts at the state and local level to find creative solutions to this problem, there has yet to be a regional approach to take on Maryland’s trash in some of the State’s most populated counties.

Local jurisdictions continue to work together and connect to process regional trash. This legislation seeks to formalize this and provide state resources for regional strategizing. By convening representatives from local jurisdictions, House Bill 807 will integrate the plans of municipalities that already are dependent upon each other. Additionally, the workgroup will explore the need for a regional waste disposal facility that will work for all member counties, and review critical updates to the Maryland Recycling Act. This legislation is urgently needed.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 807. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.