

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: January 21, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 304 – *Maryland Recycling Act – Recyclable Materials and Resource Recovery Facilities – Alterations*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** Senate Bill 304.

Senate Bill 304 proposes a number of revisions to Maryland's solid waste law as it relates to resource recovery facilities and the ability of Counties to receive a 5% waste reduction credit toward their recycling goals through the utilization of a resource recovery facility. As currently defined, a "resource recovery facility" is a facility that was in existence as of January 1, 1988, that (1) processes solid waste to produce valuable resources, including steam, electricity, metals, or refuse-derived fuel, and (2) achieves a volume reduction of at least 50% of its solid waste stream.

While most counties in the State do not use resource recovery facilities to meet their Maryland Recycling Act goals, those Counties that do, including Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Montgomery County may see increased costs to meet their goals if they are unable to use resource recovery facilities as a recognized credit for waste reduction, even though those technologies are proven to significantly reduce the amount of waste that requires disposal. The current recycling markets have become exceedingly challenging and the costs to local jurisdictions to maintain their recycling programs have increased significantly. Passage of Senate Bill 304 will only exacerbate those challenges and cost increases without a known environmental benefit. Furthermore, while the use of incinerator ash for beneficial use is not currently utilized to achieve waste reduction credit, there are numerous scientific studies that confirm that incinerator ash is environmentally beneficial for reuse for such purposes as daily landfill cover. Elimination of that option for future consideration by local jurisdictions only further limits the Counties' ability to meet their recycling goals through cost effective and environmentally responsible technologies and options. MDSWA respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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