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Position: FAV



February 24, 2021

Senate Bill 650

Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Anne Arundel County Administration supports the development of comprehensive waste disposal solutions for the Baltimore region. According to population forecasts published by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the region's population is expected to increase by about 9% between 2020 and 2045.¹ This increasing population will generate more municipal waste of all kinds, and will likely require additional disposal capabilities that have yet to be designed.

The Administration welcomes the opportunity to be part of the workgroup tasked with designing these solutions. As participants on this workgroup, we will endeavor to ensure that such solutions do not burden communities with pollution for generations to come, but minimize potential environmental and human health impacts. We will also work with other workgroup members to thoroughly evaluate environmental justice and equity impacts on any potentially affected community. Finally, we will insist upon solutions that focus on recycling, reuse, composting and the advancement of zero waste principles.

For all these reasons, the Anne Arundel County Administration requests a **FAVORABLE** vote on SB 650.

¹ Baltimore Metropolitan Council, 2020. Round 9A Cooperative Forecasts available at: https://baltometro.org/sites/default/files/bmc_documents/general/community/demo-and-socio-forecasting/Round-9A_Jurisdictional.pdf.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0650.pdf

Uploaded by: Conner, Charles

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 650**

TITLE: Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

SPONSOR: Senator Klausmeier

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

DATE: February 24, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 650 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility. This legislation would require the Maryland Department of the Environment to convene a work group to evaluate regional waste disposal throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County.

Changes in the recycling system, increases in local populations, and unexpected single use items generated from the pandemic has led to an abundance of solid waste in the state needing immediate attention. This is why Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has made passing legislation to solve this issue a priority of his this session. 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, Senate Bill 650 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. This legislation is urgently needed.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 650. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 650 EHE LoS.pdf

Uploaded by: Klausmeier, Katherine

Position: FAV

KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER
Legislative District 8
Baltimore County

—
PRESIDENT PRO TEM EMERITUS

—
Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

—
Chair

Baltimore County Senate Delegation



The Senate of Maryland

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February 5, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

Please be advised that the Baltimore County Senate Delegation has given a Favorable Recommendation to **SB 650 - Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility.**

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Klausmeier".

Kathy Klausmeier
Chair, Baltimore County Senate Delegation

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Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FWA

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
The Honorable Baltimore County Administration

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

DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED** – Senate Bill 650 – *Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility*

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 **support** Senate Bill 650, **only if the legislation is amended**.

Senate Bill 650 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to convene a workgroup, with a defined membership, to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility that serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The Department must issue a report on the Workgroup's findings and recommendations by December 1, 2021. The required report must include *proposals* (1) for the siting of a regional waste disposal facility; (2) for sharing costs associated with establishing a regional waste disposal facility; (3) for developing service networks; (4) that consider modern technology and consolidation needs, as specified; (5) that provide a commitment to phase out incineration; (6) that focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and (7) that advance principles of zero waste.

While MDSWA has no objection to the creation of a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility, the workgroup does include the private waste industry. The private sector is a critical player across all the Counties identified to be part of this workgroup. The private sector provides the vast majority of the collection of both waste and recyclable materials across the identified region. It also owns and operates a number of recycling and other waste management facilities. To that end, MDSWA would request that a representative from the Association be included in the membership of the workgroup. In addition, MDSWA would take issue with the fact that the charge of the workgroup and its required report presumes certain findings before they have been evaluated. The information to be included in the annual report requires "*proposals*" not the "*findings and recommendations*" of the

workgroup. If the Workgroup is to objectively evaluate the establishment of a regional facility, it should not presume there will be proposals to that end but rather findings and recommendations. Along those lines, MDSWA, also, does not support the language which states the report should “provide a commitment to phase out incineration”. Once again, this is reaching a conclusion before the study has been undertaken. The bill should be amended to reflect a report on the findings and recommendations of the Workgroup with the deletion of the provision that requires the phase out of incineration or amending it to evaluate its continued use.

As stated previously, MDSWA appreciates the interest in evaluating the development of a regional facility and with the adoption of its amendments would welcome the opportunity to work with the local jurisdictions to achieve that end. Absent the adoption of the requested amendments, MDSWA is unable to support the legislation.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

410-244-7000

SB650_MDE_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 650 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed Senate Bill 650 entitled *Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility* and would like to provide the Committee with some information regarding this bill.

Senate Bill 650, through uncodified language, would require MDE to convene a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility to serve Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. On or before December 1, 2021, the workgroup would be required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. The report would be required to include various proposals, including for the siting of a regional facility and for sharing costs associated with the facility. The proposals must consider certain factors, including modern technology, consolidation needs, phasing out incineration, recycling, reuse, composting, and the principles of zero waste.

MDE is responsible for overseeing counties' overall solid waste and recycling planning through the review of 10-year solid waste management plans (SWMPs). Among other things, SWMPs require counties to evaluate needs for waste disposal and identify the facilities that will be used to meet those needs. The Maryland Recycling Act requires the counties to meet plan for and meet minimum recycling rates of 20 or 35 percent, depending on population. While these broad requirements are overseen at the state level, individual counties determine how they will provide for solid waste disposal and recycling according to local needs.

MDE is supportive of cooperative and creative means of providing for environmentally responsible disposal and recycling. Several examples of regional cooperation exist. Baltimore and Harford Counties have an existing agreement in which some of Harford County's waste is processed through the transfer facility at the Baltimore County Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility. The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) operates the Midshore Regional Solid Waste System that serves the solid waste disposal and recycling needs of Talbot, Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties. The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) assists Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City with the planning and development of waste management and waste-to-energy systems by

serving as a regional coordinating agency and a financing vehicle for facilities.

Under the proposed legislation, MDE is required to convene the workgroup, but is not listed as a workgroup member. For this reason, and because MDE does not have extensive experience or expertise in siting or funding disposal and recycling facilities, it would staff the workgroup and rely heavily on expertise and input of the members in compiling the workgroup's report. MES and NMWDA, both workgroup members, would more typically assist counties in developing, financing, and operating disposal and recycling facilities. Because MDE does not have a funding stream to engage a contractor for this purpose, it is assumed that the workgroup and the report would be handled by MDE and the workgroup members with existing resources.

The bill would take effect July 1, 2021 and the report is due on or before December 1, 2021. It would be difficult to convene the workgroup and thoroughly consider and make the required proposals in a period of five months. Additionally, there are several bills currently before the General Assembly that create workgroups and task forces to examine various aspects of solid waste and recycling. House Bill 1103 would create a task force to study and report, by December 31, 2021, on topics related to recycling and processing of solid waste, including the feasibility of a regional approach. House Bill 807 would create a task force to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act, with a report due December 1, 2021. Because the timelines, and to some extent the topics, of these studies overlap, it may be preferable to combine these into a single effort, streamline the scope, and extend the timeline for completion through at least July 1, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 650 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

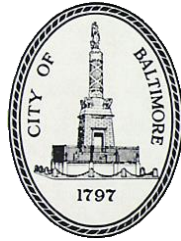
Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier
Ms. Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration

SB0650-EHEA-LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: INFO



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 650

February 24, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: SENATE BILL 650 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) submits the following **letter of information** on Senate Bill (SB) 650.

Senate Bill 650 would establish a work group of 10 persons representing local government (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties, and Baltimore City), the recycling industry, waste diversion industry, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), and the Maryland Environmental Service (MES). The work group would develop a report that considers proposals for the siting and cost-sharing of a regional waste disposal facility, consolidating waste disposal needs, provides a commitment to phase out waste-to-energy and focuses on waste diversion to advance the principles of zero waste. The work group is to present its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2021. The cost to support such an effort is anticipated to be minimal, however, the short turn-around time to produce a report would appear to be inadequate for such an important issue.

It is important to note that the City of Baltimore and the five (5) counties listed in the Bill are members of NMWDA, a regional coalition which looks at and assists its members with regional approaches to solid waste management, among other things. MES is a quasi-governmental (State) entity that provides expertise, services, and in some cases, operational services for solid waste management facilities with and for local governments, including waste diversion facilities.

In coordination with, and assistance from the NMWDA, Baltimore City Department of Public Works conducted and recently issued its “Less Waste Better Baltimore” operational plan that made recommendations on ways in which the City could expand recycling opportunities; invest in the development of waste diversion facilities, either solely or in partnership; encourage the private sector to do its part to reduce its waste stream through sustainable practices; and policy or legislative actions which could support these efforts (e.g. producer responsibility legislation, similar to bills introduced in this General Assembly session). As these more sustainable practices are developed and ramping up to their planned capacities, the City will be continuing its use of landfilling and waste-to-energy to manage its waste stream. The Less Waste Better Baltimore operational plan can be found at the following link:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/lesswaste>.

The City of Baltimore has located within its borders, a waste-to-energy facility (BRESCO) and a medical waste incinerator, both of which received publicly and privately collected waste from around the region, and in the case of the medical waste incinerator, from out of state as well. The City also owns and operates the Quarantine Road Landfill (QRL) that it uses for disposal of waste it collects that does not go to the BRESCO facility for energy conversion, as well as privately collected waste that may be disposed of for a tipping fee. The City is in the process of developing expansion plans for QRL to extend the useful life of the facility. In addition, Baltimore City recently entered into a new 10-year contract with BRESCO to provide for the disposal of its waste as it works to develop waste diversion programs and facilities that will ultimately minimize the need to dispose of components of waste that can be recycled, reused, or repurposed.

We hope you find this **letter of information** on Senate Bill 650 helpful.