

HB807_FAV_EnvMD.pdf

Uploaded by: Breimann, Kate

Position: FAV



**HB 807- Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland - Environment, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 31, 2021
Position: Favorable**

This session, you have heard multiple bills that aim to alleviate the plastic pollution crisis and how to deal with our overflowing landfills and toxic incinerators. It is no secret that we have a waste problem in this state and country - **in fact, the U.S. throws out enough plastic approximately every 11 hours to fill the Ravens stadium, and that amount is increasing.**

Our Waste Crisis

So how do we manage all this waste? Let's use plastic as an example. Let's say you discard some plastic packaging. In our current system, a local municipality will likely have to pay to collect and transport that plastic to a waste management facility. More often than not, this piece of plastic will likely be landfilled or incinerated, creating toxic air and water pollution and breaking down into microplastics. Those microplastics will persist and accumulate in the environment, some finding their way into the food we eat and the water we drink. Even the small amount of plastic that is recycled will likely be recycled into a less durable product like insulation or fabric, so the process will need to start again to create new plastic that will inevitably become waste.

This broken model is incredibly costly for our local governments, and for taxpayers. Our recycling rates are low, people have lost faith in the recycling system, and recycling markets for our plastic waste are less and less reliable.

The growing challenges of plastic pollution, climate change and rising recycling costs demand new solutions to Maryland's waste problems.

HB 807 allows us to think through new, innovative solutions to our waste problem. Through better recycling systems and the adoption of zero waste principles, we can decrease the amount of waste ending up in landfills and incinerators, and littering our communities.

Every year, we come to this assembly with bills that aim to alleviate our waste problem. From producer responsibility to single-use bans, there are proven solutions to this burden. We are hopeful that HB 807 will help bring together partners from across many sectors, allowing us to agree on both upstream and downstream solutions that will help improve Maryland's waste management and change our culture from one of single-use to one deeply rooted in principles of reuse and reduction.

We urge a favorable report, and thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

HB0807-EHE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Butler, Alex

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 807

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: March 31, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** HB 807. The bill would establish a task force to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), providing an avenue for sensible changes.

The MRA is an important piece of State policy that outlines waste diversion and recycling efforts at the state and local level. Periodic updates to the Act are important to maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of the policy. HB 807 establishes a well-balanced task force charged with examining the MRA for potential updates. The task force would be made up of representatives from state and local government as well as the waste industry.

In Maryland, county governments are the principal actors in achieving the State's recycling goals. Counties operate the entire range of solid waste facilities, including recycling centers and facilities. Counties actively promote to residents the importance of recycling, and deliver the collection infrastructure that enables widespread resident participation. Even as recycling programs globally face challenges with back-end markets and other system shocks from outside Maryland, it is county governments who lead Maryland's response to continue work toward our shared goals. HB 807 recognizes this central role, and brings county perspectives to these deliberations.

HB 807 outlines a practical approach to updating the Maryland Recycling Act. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 807 a **FAVORABLE** report.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_HB0807.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.: **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.

The Maryland Recycling Network Response - HB807 T

Uploaded by: Houstle, Peter

Position: FAV



March 29, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: HB 807 Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) enthusiastically supports House Bill 807, sponsored by Delegate Sara Love. House Bill 807, as amended, which calls for the creation of a 24-member Task Force to review the Maryland Recycling Act along with studying Maryland's recycling and waste systems and to make recommendations on updating the Act and recommendations for improving waste and recycling in Maryland.

Careful review of the Maryland Recycling Act, enacted in 1988, is most appropriate given the passage of 33 years. It is important to ensure the act is updated to embody the best of environmental objectives, as it is appropriate to improve how Maryland's local governments manage recycling and waste. Furthermore, MRN appreciates that House Bill 807 provides for an MRN representative to serve on the Task Force.

Finally, MRN thanks the House and Senate for recently approving House Bill 164/Senate Bill 116 - Department of the Environment - Office of Recycling - Recycling Market Development. This correctly places market development at the center of Maryland's recycling efforts.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director

HB0807 - Senate_FAV_NWRA_TF to Review & Update MD

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the



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

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

DATE: March 31, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 807 – *Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland*

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** House Bill 807.

Recycling and waste management has been the focus of significant consideration by this Committee, specifically, and the General Assembly, generally, over the last few years. The commitment to enhance recycling in the State and address related issues regarding waste reduction and environmentally responsible processing and disposal have highlighted the fact that the Maryland Recycling Act has not recently been the subject of specific review and evaluation. The proposed Task Force and its charge may provide an avenue to address the objective of increasing recycling rates and/or better understanding the status of recycling in the State. As amended by the House, the Task Force also will study broader issues regarding Maryland's waste and recycling infrastructure. MDSWA appreciates the sponsor's inclusion of the Association in the Task Force membership and looks forward to working with the other stakeholders if the legislation is enacted.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

Love Testimony_HB 807_DLH (004).pdf

Uploaded by: Love , Sara

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony for HB 807 –
Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act**

Last interim I participated in the Chair's Workgroup on Waste & Recycling. The workgroup sent a survey to all the counties and Baltimore City; sixteen jurisdictions returned our survey. Many jurisdictions offered suggestions as to how to amend the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) to give more flexibility to jurisdictions and to more accurately count the materials they collect. Among these suggestions were adding cooking oil, windshields, and construction & demolition debris to the MRA as materials that would count to a county's recycling rate.

Following the workgroup, Chair Barve, Workgroup Chair Lierman and I sent a letter to Secretary Grumbles laying out the amendments suggested by the jurisdictions. In his response, the Secretary laid out some of the challenges that adopting those amendments would pose. After talking with many stakeholders, we agreed that rather than amending the MRA in bits and pieces, it made more sense to establish a task force. This task force would consist of a number of stakeholders and will address amending the MRA in a holistic manner. One of the key questions the task force will address is: are we counting the right things? That is, are the materials that we are counting towards a recycling rate the materials whose collection will help the environment? This is a key question that must be answered by the stakeholders before we can add or subtract certain materials.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report.

HB0807-EHEA-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mehu, Natasha

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

HB 807

March 31, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: HOUSE 807 – Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 807.

House Bill 807 would establish a Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) which will report recommendations on or before December 1, 2022 to submit to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee. The task force will be made up by representatives from local government and the solid waste industry.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act (Maryland Environmental Article, Title 9-505), counties must produce a recycling plan that provides for a certain recycling rate of the waste stream by weight. For each county with a population over 150,000 which includes Baltimore City, the required recycling rate is 35%.

There are several reasons that it would be beneficial to update the Maryland Recycling Act. Updates could include improved metrics, perhaps incorporating the metrics that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) identified in April 2019; could move beyond recycling to incorporate aspects of Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland; and could move to the next level of waste reduction. An improved measurement system will better recognize waste diversion efforts and provide a more accurate picture of environmental efforts in Maryland.

Currently, Baltimore City, and other counties, spend staff time and resources to mail out hundreds of letters and e-mails to businesses requesting them to report their recycling activity for the year. Unfortunately, there is a low response rate to those requests. The reporting process is onerous for counties and businesses, and does not provide an accurate depiction of the recycling rate. The law to determine recycling rates is based on tonnages, even though the waste stream

has changed significantly in recent years. For example, electronic communications replacing newspapers and other print, and in an effort to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts, light-weighting packaging and film pouches have replaced heavier glass jars and aluminum cans. In addition, the current law placed an emphasis on end-of-life management of materials and does not consider the impacts of waste prevention. It does not include many materials that are recycled and diverted, such as construction and demolition debris (C&D). Therefore, the State's recycling rate established by the MRA does not provide a full picture of recycling activity due to incomplete reporting, restrictions on the materials that are included as "MRA recyclables" and the use of the limited metric of tonnage.

As the conversation shifts to focus on waste reduction and the circular economy, it may be time to update the MRA to look beyond recycling and to incorporate these aspects. This legislation will give all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss and research ways to improve the Maryland Recycling Act in order to reassess the goals and determine how to better reach and measure those goals. The recommendations of the workgroup will provide potential improvements that could be made to the Maryland Recycling Act.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 807.

HB807_CleanWaterAction_Support_EmilyRanson.pdf

Uploaded by: Ranson, Emily

Position: FAV



HB807: Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

March 31, 2021

Positon: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

HB807 is a comprehensive view on Maryland's current recycling policy and our recycling and waste systems in Maryland. We applaud the comprehensive and regional approach used in the task force. Changing the way we manage our waste is a critical part of fighting climate change, despite the common conception that climate action is primarily about what transportation systems we use or how we get our energy. Plastic is made out of petroleum, and as fuel demand decreases major oil companies are increasing their plastic production; reducing plastic use is a key part of reducing fossil fuel use.¹ Landfills and trash incinerators, two common methods for disposing of our waste, also are greenhouse gas producers - in landfills when organic waste rots, and in incinerators as organic waste and plastics (essentially fossil fuels) are burned.

As it stands, it is difficult for members of the public to know where their recyclable materials go. Producing a comprehensive study of this will help raise public understanding, especially of the difficulties of recycling plastic. Many of the plastics we use are not recyclable, and even which ones can be recycled varies across different jurisdictions. The presence of the triangle with arrows does not mean that the item can be tossed into the blue bin. The more people toss unrecyclable materials into the recycling bin, the more expensive and unsustainable our recycling programs are. This task force's report may help give members of the public a better understanding of the realities of recycling markets, and drive environmental action.

One exciting feature of Maryland's recycling program as it pertains to this bill is that compost counts as organic recycling. Composting is an underutilized waste management program that can save money for local governments and has the added climate benefit of sequestering carbon, the added stormwater benefit of increasing storage capacity of amended soils, and the added economic benefit of creating accessible, local, green jobs. However, it can

¹ Gardiner, Beth. "The Plastics Pipeline: A Surge of New Production Is on the Way." 2019, Dec. 19. Yale Environment 360. <https://e360.yale.edu/features/the-plastics-pipeline-a-surge-of-new-production-is-on-the-way>

be difficult to find places to site compost facilities. The Yard Waste, Food Residuals, and Other Organic Materials Diversion and Infrastructure Study Group, as required by HB171 (2017), included a recommendation to inventory state land to find suitable locations for compost facilities in their final July 2019 report. Unfortunately, the state never completed that inventory, and proposed facilities outside of farmland have faced challenges getting off the ground. HB807 includes a look at potential facility sites, especially those that have been abandoned, which will be a valuable step forward in increasing Maryland's compost capacity.

We also applaud the recommendations to advance the principles of zero waste; it is important to note that zero waste does not properly include burning materials. Recently the plastic industry has been abuzz about "chemical recycling." While some chemical recycling processes to turn plastic into other types of plastic do exist and may be under development, the more prevalent form of chemical recycling is turning the plastic into a fuel feedstock. Turning petroleum into plastic and then back into fuel to be burned is not recycling - it's just burning petroleum with more steps in between. We hope the Task Force will use the peer-reviewed, internationally-recognized definition of Zero Waste given by the Zero Waste International Alliance,² and exclude burning technologies from its recommendations.

We are pleased to see that the MD-DC Composting Committee, an affiliate of the US Composting Council, is on the task force, as is Trash Free Maryland, Environment Maryland, and the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club's Zero Waste Committee has significant experience with zero waste principles around the state, from plastics to compost.

Finally, we also appreciate that the legislation moved the "due date" for the report back to July 1, 2022. This will give the task force more time to complete the work thoroughly. Our waste system is complicated, but we can reform it to improve its sustainability and accountability, so we know what happens when we throw our waste into the blue (or other) bin.

Thank you and we urge a favorable report.

Best,

Emily Ranson
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org
410-921-9229

² <https://zwia.org/policies/>

HB 807 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycl

Uploaded by: Robinson, Shane

Position: FAV



**HB 807- Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland - Environment, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 31, 2021
Position: Favorable**

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Our Waste Crisis

So how do we manage all this waste? Let's use plastic as an example. Let's say you discard some plastic packaging. In our current system, a local municipality will likely have to pay to collect and transport that plastic to a waste management facility. More often than not, this piece of plastic will likely be landfilled or incinerated, creating toxic air and water pollution and breaking down into microplastics. Those microplastics will persist and accumulate in the environment, some finding their way into the food we eat and the water we drink. Even the small amount of plastic that is recycled will likely be recycled into a less durable product like insulation or fabric, so the process will need to start again to create new plastic that will inevitably become waste.

This broken model is incredibly costly for our local governments, and for taxpayers. Our recycling rates are low, people have lost faith in the recycling system, and recycling markets for our plastic waste are less and less reliable.

The growing challenges of plastic pollution, climate change and rising recycling costs demand new solutions to Maryland's waste problems.

HB 807 allows us to think through new, innovative solutions to our waste problem. Through better recycling systems and the adoption of zero waste principles, we can decrease the amount of waste ending up in landfills and incinerators, and littering our communities.

Every year, we come to this assembly with bills that aim to alleviate our waste problem. From producer responsibility to single-use bans, there are proven solutions to this burden. We are hopeful that HB 807 will help bring together partners from across many sectors, allowing us to agree on both upstream and downstream solutions that will help improve Maryland's waste management and change our culture from one of single-use to one deeply rooted in principles of reuse and reduction.

We urge a favorable report, and thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

HB 807 - MoCo - DEP (Senate)(GA 21).pdf

Uploaded by: Samman, Amy

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 807

DATE: March 29, 2021

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Task Force to Review and Update the Maryland Recycling Act

House Bill 807 establishes a task force to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA). The bill also requires the task force to report its findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2022.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports House Bill 807. MCDEP believes this is an important first step to understanding current recycling levels in the State and determining an up-to-date, clear definition of recyclables. This could promote recycling and assist in identifying market weaknesses and strengths to help develop further recycling programs.

For the foregoing reasons MCDEP supports House Bill 807 and respectfully requests a favorable Committee report.

HB807 - Task Force on Recycling Policy & Recycling

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FAV



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: HB 807 – “Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 31, 2021

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 807. This bill would create a Task Force of multiple stakeholders to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and make recommendations on how to update the MRA and the feasibility of regional recycling and waste disposal facilities. The Task Force must report its findings and recommendations by June 30, 2022 to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

This bill is well-timed. The Maryland Recycling Act is in need of updates. The Task Force will be able to build on the findings of the summer 2020 Environment and Transportation Committee Work Group on Waste Reduction and Recycling. It will take place concurrently with discussions within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on changes in the methodology for calculating the recycling rate, including the definition of recyclable materials and the different waste streams to be included.

We appreciate that the original bill has been amended to include greater representation by counties; participation of environmental groups; review of recycling and waste systems in Maryland; incorporation of the principles of zero waste as one of the criteria in assessing the feasibility of regional recycling and waste disposal facilities; and a more realistic one-year timeline for the Task Force to deliver its findings and recommendations.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 807.

Martha Ainsworth, Chair
Chapter Zero Waste Team
Martha.Ainsworth@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has approximately 800,000 members.

HB0807_MDE_LOI (Senate).pdf

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO



March 31, 2021

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

Re: House Bill 807 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 807 entitled *Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland*, and would like to share additional information regarding this bill.

House Bill 807 would establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. The bill would require MDE to establish and participate in the task force. The task force is charged with reviewing the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), studying the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and making recommendations on how to update the MRA and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities. On or before June 30, 2022, the task force would be required to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly. The Secretary of the Environment would be required to designate a chair for the task force, appoint several specified members, and participate or designate a MDE representative to participate on the task force. Additionally, MDE would be required to staff the task force.

The MRA serves as the primary law governing waste diversion in Maryland. In order to be considered a MRA material that counts toward a county's MRA recycling rate, the material must be defined as a "recyclable material" and be included in the "solid waste stream" definition under §9-1701 of the Environment Article. Recyclable materials are defined as those materials that would otherwise become solid waste for disposal in a refuse disposal system and may be collected, separated, composted, or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. Solid waste stream is defined as garbage or refuse that would, unless recycled, be disposed of in a refuse disposal system and includes organic material capable of being composted that is not composted in accordance with MDE's composting facility regulations. Solid waste stream does not include hospital waste, rubble, scrap material, land clearing debris, sewage sludge, or waste generated by a single individual or business and disposed of in a facility dedicated solely for that entity's waste. To capture additional materials in the calculation of the MRA recycling rate, the defined term "solid waste stream" would need to be amended to include those materials.

When questions arise under current law whether a material should count toward the MRA recycling rate, MDE uses the guidelines developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and their *Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments* document. Except for certain reusable materials (e.g., retread tires, refurbished pallets, etc.) and industrial materials that, if not recycled, would have been disposed of in a solid waste acceptance facility not dedicated solely for the management of that entity's waste, Maryland and EPA count similar materials in their recycling rates. However, EPA is presently working to update its methodology for measuring the national recycling rate as part of its goal to increase the U.S. recycling goal to 50 percent by 2030. EPA explained that this national goal will provide the benchmark to evaluate the success of collective efforts to improve the nation's recycling system. EPA is currently reviewing public comments to inform the methodology and identify key data points that the agency may include when calculating the national recycling rate as it relates to: sources of recyclable material; material streams; material management pathways; material destination; and other considerations.

Under the MRA, each county and Baltimore City are required to recycle either 20 or 35 percent of its waste depending on population size. The law also establishes a statewide waste diversion rate, which is defined as the sum of the MRA recycling rate plus a source reduction credit of up to 5 percent. Counties can earn a source reduction credit through activities designed to reduce the amount of waste going to the waste stream. If additional materials were used to calculate a county's MRA recycling rate, the mandated MRA recycling rates themselves would need to be increased. Failure to do so would make the current mandated rates of 20 and 35 percent serve little purpose in encouraging continuous improvement in recycling.

In 2017, Governor Hogan signed the executive order entitled *Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland*, which required MDE to consult with stakeholders and recommend to the governor, among other things, voluntary statewide goals to encourage continuous improvement in sustainable materials management. In making these recommendations, MDE sought to incorporate principles of the State's sustainable materials management policy, also established in the executive order. Goals and metrics that take a sustainable materials management approach should: consider the impacts of materials management throughout the entire lifecycle of products; be linked to the State's environmental goals; account for the differences in impacts from different types of materials; and seek to incorporate the most comprehensive data available. In 2019, MDE published its final goals and metrics recommendations, which establish voluntary goals to reduce per capita waste generation, statewide greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage related to materials management, and material-specific recycling rates.

MDE is supportive of cooperative and creative means of providing for environmentally responsible disposal and recycling. In fact, several examples of regional cooperation in Maryland exist. MDE does not have extensive experience or expertise in siting or funding disposal and recycling facilities. Therefore, in the development of the recommendations and report, MDE will rely heavily on the expertise and input of task force members. The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), both task force members, assist counties in developing, financing, and operating disposal and recycling facilities. MES operates the Midshore Regional Solid Waste System that serves the solid waste

Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

Page 3

disposal and recycling needs of Talbot, Caroline, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties. 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.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 807 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 tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Sara Love
Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration