



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0264
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – ORGANICS RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION –
FOOD RESIDUALS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0264 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members support the Organics Recycling bill because it will help expand our recycling capabilities in Maryland and provide an economic benefit, rather than having food waste sit in landfills. Additionally, it will lower greenhouse gas emissions by removing food waste from landfills and incinerators. This will reduce landfill methane emissions and the toxic emissions from incinerators. Landfills account for 17% of Maryland's methane emissions, which have a far more potent effect on global warming than carbon.

The bill requires entities that produce more than two tons of food waste per week AND that are within 30 miles of a compost or other food recovery facility to divert this material from the waste stream through donations to food banks and other needy organizations, through reduction, or anaerobic digestion. It will help the state take a much-needed step forward in disposing of the significant amounts of food waste that are currently produced by large-scale organizations.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.