



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 164

Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: January 15, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** HB 164. The bill would require the Office of Recycling contained within the Maryland Department of the Environment to identify new and existing markets for recycled commodities.

Markets for recycled commodities have seen sincere hardships in the last several years due to a decline in market demand from Asia. This harms local recycling efforts that rely on revenue from the sale of commodities to subsidize recycling efforts.

In Maryland, the State mandates that counties reach certain recycling goals, and central to the revenue keeping these programs viable is the sale of commodities. HB 164 would require the State offer some assistance by identifying new and existing local markets to keep recycled materials closer to where they were first used, thus reducing the costs and vehicle emissions associated with transporting commodities.

HB 164 would help identify new and existing recycled material markets that could allow local governments more opportunities to sell their commodities. This would help preserve successful existing recycling programs and avoid shifting more costs to residents. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 164 a **FAVORABLE** report.