



Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0280 – Maryland Recycling Act – Recyclable Materials and Resource Recovery Facilities – Alterations

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

Bill Contact: Delegates Lorig Charkoudian

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all the members of our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment. DTMG strongly supports HB0280 because only true recycling will help Maryland meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals to address climate change and keep our air and water clean.

Climate change is an existential threat to all Maryland residents. To address this threat and provide a safe and clean environment for our children and grandchildren, we must drastically reduce the GHG emissions that drive climate change and reduce toxic pollutants in our air and water. Recycling that turns waste products into new usable products without requiring new raw materials is what's needed to achieve a clean environment.

However, Maryland law currently allows incineration to count toward counties' waste diversion goals and allows incineration ash to count toward recycling. This is problematic for several reasons. Counting incinerator ash towards recycling creates an inaccurate measure of real recycling, and gives credit to technologies which, along with landfills, need to be minimized and replaced with real reduction and recycling. Incineration gets rid of our trash, but releases GHG emissions and pollutes the air with multiple toxins. The ash remaining after incineration of trash is even more toxic than coal ash and is definitely not reusable. Neither incineration nor incinerator ash reduce our need for new products or decrease the need for new raw materials – from fossil fuels or mining – to make new materials. Therefore, counting both incineration and its toxic resulting ash as "recycling" gives us a very skewed sense of what's happening and reduces the motivation for the real recycling that we need.

HB0280 will address these problems and achieve a more accurate accounting and measurement of actual waste reduction and recycling. HB0280 will remove incineration ash from being considered as a recyclable material towards a county's recycling goal and also remove the 5%

waste diversion credit for an incinerator built before 1988. These are reasonable and important measures to achieve a clean environment and actually reduce waste.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports HB0280 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599