

Letter of Support for HB248 - Condominiums and Homeowners Associations - Rights and Restrictions - Composting

Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

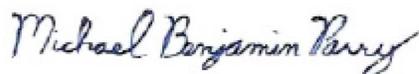
Compost Crew respectfully submits this letter of support for HB248 - Condominiums and Homeowners Associations - Rights and Restrictions - Composting, sponsored by Delegate Shetty. HB248 would prohibit a condominium or a homeowners association from restricting residents from engaging in composting practices.

Compost Crew, based in Rockville, MD, provides food scrap collection and composting services to over 5,000 customers in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia. We regularly run into issues with HOAs, condominium associations, and other property managers impeding people who wish to divert their food scraps from the garbage. A woman in Rockville wanted to organize a group of composters in her neighborhood, but was stymied by HOA regulations. The HOA of one of our customers in Silver Spring harassed him because his odor-free, tightly-sealed compost bin was visible to neighbors. We regularly work with prospective customers who spend months working through approval processes to get a program setup in their neighborhood or multi-family complex.

This legislation will remove barriers to the expansion of food scrap recycling and composting, which are key activities required to reduce methane emissions, sequester carbon, and create healthier soils in Maryland.

We respectfully request a favorable report of HB248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Benjamin Parry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Parry
CEO, Compost Crew
on behalf of Compost Crew employees, customers, and prospective customers