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## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **Testimony in Support of House Bill 164**

### **Department of the Environment-Office of Recycling- Recycling Market Development**

Chairman Barve and Committee members:

This is a re-introduction of a bill which this committee approved, and the House approved 133 to 0, last year.

For many years, China had been a major buyer of recyclables from the U.S. But three years ago, China said that American recycled materials were filled with too much trash, and stopped buying it. Other nations have also placed new restrictions on American recyclables.

This has had a major effect on jurisdictions throughout the country, including Maryland's counties and Baltimore City. Local governments have been forced to find new markets. Chinese markets were paying more for our recycled paper. While recycling prices fluctuate, losing the Chinese market has had a negative effect on the overall market.

Recycling is a demand-driven industry. Without consistent, long-term demand, we cannot recycle our materials. If we can develop local markets, it will not only help the Maryland economy, but will also reduce transportation costs to ship recyclable material to market.

To make recycling successful in Maryland, we need to create new markets and strengthen existing markets for recyclables. That is what HB 164 would do. It would require MDE's Office of Recycling to evaluate current markets, make recommendations to improve markets, and target markets that need market development. It would also encourage existing businesses to use more recycled materials, examine funding mechanisms, develop an advertising campaign to attract new recycling businesses, and provide technical support. The goal of the

bill is to let the private sector know that “Maryland is Open for Recycling Business.”

The Maryland Recycling Network and Baltimore County support this bill.

I urge passage of HB 164.