

**From:** Caroline Eader, [Zero Waste for Zero Loss](#)

**To:** Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**Date:** February 22, 2021 (Hearing date of 2/24/21)

**Re:** UNFAVORABLE - HB 1103, "Task Force to Study Recycling and the Processing of Solid Waste "

HB 1103 specifically states its purpose is to examine a regional approach to the processing of municipal solid waste including **waste-to-energy, gasification,... pelletizing or other refuse-derived fuel**. [Emphasis added.] These are technologies that release SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, and Maryland should not be exploring additional combustion technologies in its emissions profile. Therefore, I respectfully request an UNFAVORABLE recommendation for HB 1103.

Maryland [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13](#), "Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland" adopts a sustainable materials management policy with an emphasis on environmentally and economically sustainable methods to reuse resources and to "empower new partnerships across State and local agencies."<sup>1</sup> A bill with the intent and goals of this Executive Order would be preferable.

I provide the following information for consideration for job creation purposes.

Resource Recovery Parks generate revenue by selling the resources to manufacturing plants which are co-located in the park with the recovery operation. When sufficient volume is present, the parks are self-sustaining. All profits remain in Maryland, and help the local economy. The government entity receives revenue by leasing land for the recovery park, receives income tax from employees, and sales tax from the manufactured items that are sold to the public.

From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: "[Getting recyclables from waste bins to manufacturers requires different types of workers](#)". Drivers collect the recyclables and transport them to a MRF, at which sorters, plant managers, and technicians and mechanics work. Skilled personnel in support roles, such as sales and logistics, are also essential to the recycling industry. Larger recycling firms also employ workers in many other occupations, including management and human resources, but these occupations are not covered in this report.

**Drivers** - Recycling companies or local governments offering home pickup services employ drivers, also called recyclable material collectors, to pick up and transport recyclables to an MRF. [...]

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1 Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland, 2017, <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx>

**Sorters** - In single-stream recycling systems, many different kinds of recyclables are collected together. Sorters separate the various types of recyclables so they can be processed.[...]

**Mechanics, technicians, and machinery maintenance workers** - Recycling operations rely on various kinds of mechanics, technicians, and machinery maintenance workers to inspect and repair the automated equipment in MRF and to maintain recycling trucks. [...]

**Material recovery facility managers** - Keeping a constant flow of recyclables collected, sorted, processed, and sold requires a proficient staff—and experienced MRF managers to supervise it. [...]

**Route managers** - To collect recyclables in the most efficient way possible, route managers plan routes and schedules for recycling trucks to follow. [...]

**Sales representatives** - Sales representatives, also called account managers, are responsible for finding purchasers for both recycling services and processed recyclables.[...]"

Thank you for considering this information for [HB 1103](#).

Sincerely,

Caroline Eader  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law, Juris Doctor

Zero Waste for Zero Loss

Clean Energy & Zero Waste Policy Support and Implementation