



HB 264 Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals

Favorable

Organization: WISE Submitted by Monica O'Connor

On behalf of WISE, a member organization of 500 women in Anne Arundel County I urge you to vote favorably to HB 264.

The bill has three main components:

- 1. Requires large-scale food waste generators to source-separate food residuals if an organics recycling facility exists that has the capacity and is willing to accept food residuals within a 30 mile radius*
- 2. Gives facilities flexibility for disposing of organic waste by offering a list of zero waste strategies, including: sending food residuals to a compost or anaerobic digestion facility, reducing waste, donating servable food, managing residuals in a system installed onsite, or diverting food waste for agricultural purposes.*
- 3. Allows for food waste generators to receive a waiver if the cost of recycling waste is not competitive with the cost of disposing waste using other methods.*

Food waste is a persistent problem, with over 25% of the overall food supply at the retail and consumer level going uneaten and wasted. Disposing of our organic material in landfills and incinerators contributes to climate change. Whether landfilled or burned, the waste generates methane and carbon dioxide. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent in causing the climate to warm than carbon dioxide, and landfills contribute 17% of Maryland's methane. Landfill emissions are expected to more than double from our 2011 levels by 2020, according to the 2019 update to the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Act Draft Plan.

We urge you to vote favorably of HB264