



HB 264 - SUPPORT
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HB 264 SUPPORT
Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste
Diversion - Food Residuals

Environment and Transportation Committee
January 27th, 2021

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation

Committee:

I am Roxanne Yamashita, Executive Director at Small Things Matter and I am here to support Bill HB0264. Small Things Matter is a 501(3)c whose mission is to serve those in need through our food, literacy, and crafting programs.

Small Things Matter's Kokua Foods program provides produce, dairy, meat, and more to food insecure families in Maryland. Each year our organization rescues over 250,000lbs of food from Imperfect Foods and Wegmans and uses it to feed food insecure families here in Maryland. In addition to donating useable excess food to charity, these responsible companies also compost foods that are no longer suitable for consumption which helps prevent climate change by sequestering carbon. Bill HB0264 would encourage other grocery stores and businesses to donate excess food rather than simply disposing of it in landfills and incinerators. This would greatly benefit us as well as other similar food-rescue efforts.

We believe that ending food waste is critical to ending hunger in our country. Over 200,000 pounds of food is wasted each day in America, and this number doesn't even include the waste that goes on in our own homes. We cannot wait. The pandemic has brought to light the immense amount of need in our community. Bill HB064 would help many other nonprofits gain access to food that could be used to feed food insecure families.

We urge a favorable report on HB 264.

Thank you for your time,

Roxanne Yamashita