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MAYOR

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HB 566

February 17, 2022

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: HOUSE BILL 566 – School Construction – Design Documents – Waste Disposal Infrastructure

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 566.

House Bill 566 would require the Interagency Commission on School Construction to adopt certain regulations for county Boards of Education to include waste disposal infrastructure in certain design documents.

House Bill 566 would require newly built schools to design and build space for students to separate the components of their waste into trash, recyclables, food waste, and liquids. Baltimore City supports the bill as it is a step toward reaching the City's goal of reducing the presence of food waste in residents' trash by half, by 2030. In addition, according to Baltimore City's Less Waste Better Baltimore Plan, organic waste diversion is one of the top three (3) areas with the greatest waste diversion potential. The purpose of the proposed legislation also complements the Save the Food Campaign the City is conducting with organizations and community members to raise awareness about food waste prevention. Requiring waste disposal infrastructure in schools to support waste sorting will build the students' awareness of what is in the waste they generate, and how they can help divert components of that waste toward recycling, food scrap recovery for animal feed or composting, and other diversion or recovery methods to keep waste out of our landfills.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 566.