

# **HB566: School Construction – Design Documents – Waste Disposal Infrastructure**

House Appropriations Committee

February 17, 2022

## **Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the Committee,

I support HB566 to require the Interagency Commission on School Construction to adopt certain regulations for county boards of education to include waste disposal infrastructure. Designing cafeterias to accommodate trash, recycling, food scraps, and liquid waste from the onset is the most efficient way to prepare schools for future food scrap disposal.

In Frederick and Montgomery counties, the “Lunch out of Landfill” program has been helping institute food scrap recycling in schools that were not originally designed for the centralized waste collection envisioned in HB566. The program relies on students to pour liquids down the sink, putting recyclables in the correct bin, food scraps to the compost bin, and trash in the trash bin. The students participating in this program are doing well with this system, as are students in other schools around the state as they create food scrap diversion programs within their schools.

Lunch out of Landfills and other programs have to adapt to cafeterias that were not designed for this type of waste system - using buckets for liquids and creating their own centralized waste collection spaces. But as schools and students grapple with food scrap diversion as a critical piece of our sustainable future, HB566 clears the way so future cafeterias are designed for it. These programs not only reduce the risk of climate change by reducing the amount of methane that is created in landfills, it also reduces the risk of childhood asthma by decreasing the amount of materials that are burned in incinerators.

I am thankful for Delegate Boyce for bringing forward this legislation to efficiently streamline waste collection in cafeterias and prepare them for a more sustainable waste future.

Thank you,

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