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Environment and  
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Subcommittees  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 24, 2022

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

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce, presenting **HB566: School Construction – Design Documents – Waste Disposal Infrastructure**. HB566 requires the Interagency Commission on School Construction to adopt regulations for county board of education to include waste disposal infrastructure in the design documents for the construction of a new school building. A waste disposal infrastructure is defined as a place, in the cafeteria, for the disposal of trash, recyclables, food scraps, and a sink to discard liquid waste.

School cafeterias across the county are separating their waste. Most have begun out of curiosity, some as an extension of their science class or environmental clubs, and others as way to begin composting to feed school gardens. Regardless of the reasons, it is happening! Some of the challenges of beginning the process to separate waste are personnel and logistics.

Most schools have one janitorial person which makes managing this process challenging. However, in some schools, the students have created ways to separate cafeteria waste. In these cases, the janitor has been involved, and to much of their surprise, the janitor has less heavy, smelly, messy garbage. It has made the janitor's work a bit lighter, and the school's ability to recycle real and practical.

The next challenge is logistics: how to categorize waste to separate it, where to put it, and with what equipment. At some schools, students physically separate out recyclables and waste, using buckets, for instance, to collect food or liquid waste. Separation of waste makes it easier to transport.

HB566 design requirement for new schools will make waste separation easy for students, manageable for maintenance personnel, and sustainable for schools. Most importantly, by learning recycling and composting at school with visual aids as daily reminders, students are able to take this practice home and adopt sustainability as a permanent lifestyle. HB566's design requirement is on par with our states goals to reduce our carbon footprint and reverse the damage we've done to our planet.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB566. I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce