

SB 229, Favorable

Keith Ohlinger
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Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today, I hope you and all your loved ones are safe and healthy in these strange COVID times. I am testifying before you today as a private farmer who has been involved with the Maryland Compost regulations since their inception. We have made and used compost historically in our family as long as anyone can remember. It is an integral part of our gardening and our nutrient management and soil fertility programs. It has an overall agricultural history dating back well over forty centuries.

The challenge we face is how do we provide food, clothing, shelter, building materials and energy for an ever-expanding population without destroying our planet in the process? Compost is one of the ways we can help. Many farmers already have the equipment, land, and expertise available to make compost on their farms and have done so in accordance with the regulations for several years now. It is time to expand what we can take to allow us to help the broader community, increase our soil health and expand economic base in the process by adding the changes we propose in this bill.

I live on and work on my farm with my family and we are very concerned about any issues involving the making of compost and we are very careful to make sure the regulations are followed and that we are including safeguards for the environment and the community. Please help us and allow us to do our part for a better future by supporting this bill. Thank you again for your time and I pray for the health of you and your loved ones during these times. Thank you for all you do.

Very Truly Yours,

Keith Ohlinger
Porch View Farm LLC