

**Testimony Supporting SB0124**  
**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**January 17, 2022**

**Position: SUPPORT**

As a Baltimore Beyond Plastic member, I am writing to express my support for SB0124, sponsored by Senator Hettleman, which will create a grant program to support schools in developing programs to prevent, reduce, and compost food waste.

As a Baltimore Beyond Plastic member and a student I know how much waste schools produce and the damages of it, so this grant program could prevent/reduce this food waste and create a healthier environment.

This issue is so important because in September 2015, The U.S. set a national goal to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030. However, in Maryland almost a million tons of food waste is generated each year with only 15.5% of these scraps being diverted. Composting provides a market for local business: we can responsibly dispose of our waste and generate a usable product on the other end. This wasted food suffocates in landfills creating highly potent greenhouse gasses such as methane. In contrast, when converted into compost, food waste can sequester carbon in soils.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support SB 124 and support a transition toward composting in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Yasmine Blanchard*