



ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947

House Bill 184
Environment – On-Farm
Composting Facilities – Permit
Exemption
Favorable

January 31, 2022

House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 184, Environment – On-Farm Composting Facilities – Permit Exemption, Hearing date February 2, 2022.

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau supports the adoption of regulations to exempt an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit if the on-farm composting facility uses 40,000 square feet or less in support of food scrap composting and meets any other condition for a permit exemption specified in regulations.

Most farms in the State are small businesses. On-farm composting facilities that are able to engage in composting without having to first obtain a permit from the Maryland Department of Environment will benefit from a reduced regulatory burden and expense. Passage of House Bill 184 will provide another opportunity for Maryland farmers to remain profitable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James K. Raley, Jr.

President

St. Mary's County Farm Bureau