



**Bill:** HB 217

**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Position:** Support

---

## **HB 217 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland Support**

Dear Chairperson Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We support HB 217. There have been numerous developments in the field of waste management and recycling in recent years – ranging from the decision by China to stop importing materials for recycling to changes in the production of plastics to the economics of recycling for local governments in Maryland to the science of micro-plastics in our waterways.

This is an opportune time for Maryland to review the current status, what is working, what is not and to update the Maryland Recycling Act if needed. The Maryland Recycling Act was enacted over 30 years ago. There have been updates over the years – for batteries, other items containing mercury, composting and other specialty items, but the basic framework is the same. In many respects, it has worked well.

It is time, though, to examine, from a statewide perspective, what the external factors affecting the recycling system are, whether it is possible or necessary to address some of those and to ensure waste management programs are as effective as they can be.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Blue Water Baltimore

Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

Climate Justice Wing, Maryland Legislative Coalition

Little Falls Watershed Alliance

MD Public Interest Research Group

Maryland Legislative Coalition

National Aquarium

Rock Creek Conservancy

Severn River Association

Takoma Park Mobilization

Trash Free Maryland

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

WISE

Contact: **Shari Wilson, Interim Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland** ([shari@trashfreemaryland.org](mailto:shari@trashfreemaryland.org))