



February 28, 2022  
The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
91 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1904

**HB 1070- Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use**  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Barve,

The Fair Farms Campaign asks for a favorable report of this bill. Fair Farms is a program of Waterkeepers Chesapeake which works with local farmers that grow sustainably to create policies that would benefit them. We are a campaign with over 150 partners, including farmers, urban and rural, advocates, and business owners.

Maryland landfills are filling up and releasing tens of thousands of tons of methane into the atmosphere. This bill solves this issue by diverting waste through a nominal fee and providing an alternative by establishing grants for composting infrastructure and education. Supporting this bill also supports the livelihoods of farmers who use compost, and schools and non-profits who can teach the next generation about composting. It also could create more jobs in this field.

The composting process plays a key role in our food system. Its role is well known to farmers but often invisible to consumers. Farmers use compost made from food waste and woody material such as wood chips, to build the healthy soils that grow the produce that in turn, consumers eat. Any leftovers from consumers become food waste which, can be used by farmers to make more compost. This has a much smaller environmental impact compared to anaerobic digestion.

Composting is essential in many agricultural and conservation solutions including improving healthy soil, food waste diversion, and mitigating climate change.

Thank you to Delegate Boyce, her staff, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, and other stakeholders involved in crafting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Humon Heidarian  
[humon@fairfarmsnow.org](mailto:humon@fairfarmsnow.org)  
Fair Farms Campaign  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

