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Environment and  
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees  
Environment  
Motor Vehicle and Transportation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2022

**RE: HB1070 – Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce here to present HB1070-Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Composting Use.

HB1070 establishes an On-Farm Composting and Compost Use Grant Fund as a special non-lapsing fund, **The Environmental Stewardship Fund**. The fund will support two programs: The Maryland Waste Diversion and the Maryland On-Farm Composting & Compost Use. The waste diversion program will provide grants to counties for support of local waste diversion methods and plans. The on-farm composting and compost use program will provide grants used to support farmers and community garden spaces with implementation and development of composting capacity.

The programs will be funded by applying a \$5 per-ton surcharge on waste disposal at refuse disposal facilities in Maryland.

Surcharge fees are not uncommon. There are 29 states that have landfill tipping surcharges. Specifically, **Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin** have surcharges that go toward state programs. Fees across the country range from as little as \$.25 per cubic feet of uncompacted waste or tonnage to \$13 per ton. Surcharge fees has been established as far back as 1984.

HB 1070 builds on legislation passed in the 2021 session - **HB264 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals** - by creating the needed capacity to manage the large amounts of diverted food from landfills and incinerators by using and strengthening our agricultural community to do so.

The EPA states that 30% of what we throw out is yard waste and food scraps. It is estimated one-third of food produced in the world is lost or wasted, equaling around 1.3 billion tons of food wasted. Further, this means that one-third of the resources used for food production were wasted as well. This is the reason HB1070 is important. It uses the same resources that throws away and manages trash to instead build the capacity to remove wasted and discarded food from the waste stream and placing them back into productive use.

I thank the committee for the time and consideration of HB1070 and urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce