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BILL NO.: **HB 217**

TITLE: Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 217 --Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. This legislation would require the state to assemble a task force to evaluate the regional management of waste and recycling and the feasibility of a regional facility.

Changes in the recycling market, compounded by a rapidly increasing local population has led to an abundance of solid waste in need of immediate action. With landfills throughout the state reaching capacity, the issue has become more urgent. Understanding the need to stay ahead of modern sanitation needs, Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski created the Solid Waste Work Group to make recommendations on how the County can effectively and sustainably manage waste.

Having a state wide task force leading this initiative will assist Baltimore County and other jurisdictions' efforts in managing the growing burden of solid waste. This legislation provides state resources for regional strategizing. By convening representatives from local jurisdictions, House Bill 217 will integrate the plans of municipalities that already are dependent upon each other. Additionally, the workgroup will explore the need for a regional waste disposal facility that will work for all member counties, and review critical updates to the Maryland Recycling Act.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 217. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.