



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1070

Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compositing Use

Date: March 2, 2022

Position: Support

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Alan Girard, Eastern Shore Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1070, which establishes funding for projects that reduce the amount of waste burned and buried in incinerators and landfills through high-performing reduction, reuse, and composting initiatives.

The diversion of food waste from incinerators and landfills helps minimize the amount of carbon dioxide and methane released to the atmosphere by these traditional methods of waste management. Lower greenhouse gas emissions improve air quality, reduce impacts to human health, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Well-managed composting of waste adds biologically rich material to soils, feeding essential micro-organisms and fungi that improve soil health and enhance production of healthy, nutritious food. Healthier soils increase water holding capacity, facilitate nutrient cycling, and reduce soil loss, minimizing risks to water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.

HB 1070 promotes on-farm composting and compost use through a nominal surcharge on waste disposed at landfills, incinerators, and waste transfer stations. More than \$30 million per year generated by the surcharge will be distributed statewide through grants that mobilize critical investment in waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting.

This legislation will improve soil health, help fight the effects of climate change, and transition Maryland to more effective, equitable, and environmentally sound waste management.

CBF urges a FAVORABLE report on HB 1070. For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.