



**HB0217 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and
Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland
Testimony before
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 2, 2022
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of HB0217, establishing the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland to review the Maryland Recycling Act, study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and make recommendations on updating the Maryland Recycling Act and implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain legislative Committees by June 30, 2023.

The task force established by this bill will make recommendations to help the state achieve its recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals. It will make recommendations on the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities, including the potential for reuse of abandoned facilities within the state.

Recycling technology is always changing. For example, Internet of Things technology, already widely used in Europe, uses sensor hardware fitted in garbage disposal units and residential dumpsters to streamline route collections. When linked with the right front-end software, this can reveal data such as who is recycling, where, and how well they are doing it. Furthermore, the list of materials that are recyclable also changes over time. For example, scientists and researchers are experimenting to discover sustainable ways to recycle plastic.¹

This task force could explore such recent developments and make recommendations on how they can improve the state's recycling and waste disposal systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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¹ <https://recyclecoach.com/resources/5-new-recycling-technology-trends-2022-edition/>