



**US Composting  
Council®**



**BIODEGRADABLE  
PRODUCTS  
INSTITUTE**

January 31, 2022

The Hon. Kumar Barve  
Chair, Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Honorable Delegate Barve:

The US Composting Council and Biodegradable Products Institute have jointly reviewed HB 307 by Delegate Brooke Lierman, and are supportive due to the inclusion of compost manufacturing and organics recycling in the needs assessment and funding.

As the leading organizations for composting and compost use; and compostable products third-party certification, in the U.S., we have the following comments to offer:

USCC and BPI are supportive of a variety of funding mechanisms to help cover the costs of collecting and processing compostable products including, but not limited to, extended producer responsibility programs (EPR). However, it's critical that a portion of fees go toward supporting composting capabilities and investments required to process third-party-certified compostable products and packaging. BPI has outlined [Guiding Principles on Compostables in EPR](#) that document some of the key criteria to consider, and we are happy to see some of these addressed in HB0307. We welcome the opportunity discuss this further with the sponsors to make this bill a success for Maryland.

We are strongly in favor of the clarity with which composting is included in the needs assessment and funding (Section 9–1702.2., 1 I, II, III and IV). Compost manufacturing is a vital, though different, part of the recycling system with organics comprising up to 40% of the average municipal waste stream. Composting and organics recycling not only provides landfill diversion opportunities, but is essential to healthy soils and provides proven benefits to stormwater, erosion control and drought, as well as being a significant carbon sequestration measure.

We also urge you to retain the inclusion of compost/organics in fees for the needs assessment, PRO and associated state and municipal costs as written: (V) ANY FEES COLLECTED FROM PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATIONS UNDER § 9–1702.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR SUBTITLE 24 OF THIS HOUSE BILL.)

Compostable products and composting work alongside recyclable products and recycling. Specifically, certified compostable packaging must be designed to be associated with the collection and processing of food waste at composting facilities (food-soiled products often cause contamination in recycling streams), and should not be a redesign of readily recyclable products.

We urge the committee to vote favorably on HB307 as written.

Sincerely,

Frank Franciosi  
Executive Director  
US Composting Council

Rhodes Yepsen  
Executive Director  
Biodegradable Products Institute

