

Garvey Heiderman Testimony for HB1070

Hello ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Garvey Heiderman and I own The Hobbit Restaurant and Ocean Compost LLC in ocean city Maryland.

The hobbit has been run by my family for 45 years and I've run it by myself for the past 10 years. Back in 2018 I sorted our waste into compostable and non compostable bins for 2 weeks. I personally weighed every bag of trash and discovered that just over 50% of our waste (in weight) was compostable. After that I started our compost program in ocean city.

Since 2018 the program has been funded by some donations but the lions share has come from me personally. I realize this is not something everyone who runs a restaurant will do and that is exactly why we need a bill like this.

If we don't help food waste producers (restaurant and grocery stores) with purchasing materials needed to sort their compostable waste then the intent of compost legislation will stagnate. This bill will help provide the momentum needed to get a critical mass of businesses reducing and recycling their waste.

Maryland has always been a leader in the green space and we are lagging behind in this sector currently. I'm an efficiency guy and the fact that we don't have the infrastructure in place to capture a high value renewable resource to help protect our watershed among other things is very inefficient. We need to continue to parallel path the infrastructure and the legislation that makes composting part of Maryland's waste management program.

The opposition will state this is not the time to impose extra fees to haulers, when in fact it is very much the time. The sooner we institute legislation like this, the sooner the metrics will be worked out to incorporate different costs for composting in the public and private sector. Remember that this bill doesn't just benefit a select few, it benefits everyone. States all around the country have already done this and it is working. Now is the time to be a leader in our region. Thank you for your time.