



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: HB0109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 30, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB109. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB109.

HB109 will establish a Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems to review the Maryland Recycling Act, study the State’s recycling and waste systems, and make recommendations on updates and improvements to the General Assembly by June 30, 2024.

Waste management and recycling has been affected by many changes in recent years, including China’s decision to stop importing materials for recycling and changes in the economics of recycling for local governments. In addition, recent research has shown the harmful presence of micro-plastics in waterways, oceans, and in human and animals.

It is a perfect time for Maryland to review what is working and what is not in recycling and waste management, and to make recommendation for improvements to the 30-year old Maryland Recycling Act. There are many opportunities to update our recycling systems and to retool those systems for the future, as materials in the waste stream change and new recycling techniques become available. Maryland should move toward a circular economy where “waste” becomes a feedstock for new products.

Therefore, we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for HB109 in committee.