

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Sara Love

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 30, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 109 – *Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** House Bill 109.

Recycling and waste management has been the focus of significant consideration by this Committee, specifically, and the General Assembly, generally, over the last few years. The commitment to enhance recycling in the State and address related issues regarding waste reduction and environmentally responsible processing and disposal have highlighted the fact that the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) has not been the subject of specific review and evaluation for many years. The proposed Task Force and its charge provide an avenue to address the objective of increasing recycling rates and/or better understanding the state of recycling in Maryland. It will enable a more informed assessment of new policies and program proposals related to recycling that are advanced for consideration.

The Task Force will be required to make recommendations on how to update the MRA and to focus on the recycling and diversion of materials to help achieve the State's recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals. It is also charged with assessing the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities, including the locations of possible facility sites, cost-sharing opportunities, developing service networks, and advancing principles of zero waste. MDSWA appreciates the sponsor's inclusion of the Association in the Task Force membership and looks forward to working with the other stakeholders if the legislation is enacted.