

HB109_PGCEX_FAV.pdf

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Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

HEARING DATE: February 22, 2023

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**, which aims to establish a Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland whose mandates are to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) and provide recommendations to update it, look at recycling and waste systems in the State and study the feasibility of having regional recycling and waste disposal facilities.

The dynamic nature of solid waste generation by Counties in the State of Maryland requires that the MRA is attuned to current waste management challenges and opportunities to help achieve the State's overall recycling and greenhouse gas emission reduction target. MRA reporting by local governments, for example, needs to be revisited in light of the changing local waste composition and volume to best capture emerging recyclable, compostable and residual streams. It has been quite some time since the MRA guidelines were updated and the bill seeks to accomplish this effort. This can be achieved by creating a Task Force whose principal duty is to review the MRA and identify areas for improvement/amendments. Source reduction efforts have historically been difficult to measure and because the list of acceptable source reduction initiatives is outdated, having the Task Force review and make innovative recommendations in this aspect will be a significant step.

The Task Force will also be tasked to study existing recycling and waste systems in Maryland including potential siting of new facilities and reuse of closed facilities. In this regard, it is important to assess the existing capacity and resources of local governments and identify approaches for equitable cost-sharing opportunities in managing local and regional facilities. In the case of Prince George's County, a

regional approach could complement the County's infrastructures, if for example, the facility is located near North or far South County. It could pave the way for solid waste infrastructures to be accessible to residents/stakeholders across economic and social classes and further reduce costs associated with recycling and residual disposal.

HB 109 is a win for local governments in terms of reassessing existing and emerging waste streams and finding ways to identify and develop markets to include materials that pose significant challenge in reuse and recycling.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 109** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB 109 Support MES.pdf

Uploaded by: Byron Tosi III

Position: FAV



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 109 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Dear Chairman Barve,

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) supports House Bill 109, which proposes to create a task force to study recycling policy and recycling and waste systems in Maryland. MES urges the committee to grant House Bill 109 a favorable report.

MES is a leader in Solid Waste Management operations providing engineering, construction, and operations of sustainable 21st Century large scale, diversified and integrated solid waste management systems. The majority of MES's solid waste management work is the operation and engineering support for large scale and sustainable recycling operations, including both traditional recycling and organics recycling as well as renewable energy projects that captures landfill methane emissions at our two Midshore landfills (Kent, Queen Anne's Caroline and Talbot Counties). In addition, MES provides contract support for many of our State's counties and municipalities.

As a named entity on this proposed task force, MES can add invaluable insight from an operational perspective on both the policy and systems discussions. We often work closely with MDE on waste issues, and we look forward to working with MDE on this project as well.

Contact: Jeff Tosi, Director of Government Affairs
Phone/Email: 410-729-8504 (w) | jtosi@menv.com

HB0109 Task Force on Recycling Policy FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0109
TASK FORCE ON RECYCLING POLICY AND RECYCLING WASTE SYSTEMS IN
MARYLAND**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Love

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0109 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland, like most other states, has a recycling problem. Our recycling system is fragmented and some locations still only offer single stream recycling, which is not effective, while others offer dual stream recycling. Regardless of what each county or municipality uses, we aren't recycling much of our waste and are sending the vast majority of it to landfills or to be incinerated.

This bill would establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland and task them 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.

We need to study alternatives to what we are currently doing and come up with much, much better alternatives. We cannot make the world look like the one portrayed in the movie WALL-E, where humans have had to leave the planet because they couldn't figure out what to do with their waste.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

MRNHB109Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Chaz Miller

Position: FAV



February 20, 2023

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committee
Re: HB 109 Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Our members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

HB 109: Creation of a Task Force to Modernize the Maryland Recycling Act

We support HB 109.

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) enthusiastically supports House Bill 109, sponsored by Delegate Sara Love. HB 109 calls for the creation of a Task Force consisting of 21 key stakeholders from throughout the state to review the Maryland Recycling Act and study Maryland's recycling and waste systems. It will then make recommendations on updating the Act to improve waste and recycling in Maryland.

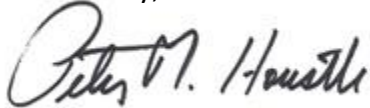
Careful review of the Maryland Recycling Act, enacted in 1988, is most appropriate given the passage of 35 years. Recycling has changed so much since then. The first single stream curbside collection started in Seattle that year. Plastic recycling was beginning, starting with PET soft drink bottles and HDPE plastic milk jugs. Newspaper collection at the curbside was common but collecting cardboard boxes was rare and mixed paper inconceivable. Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) were primitive compared to today's marvels of engineering.

So of course, the Act should be updated to embody the best of environmental objectives and to improve how Maryland's local governments manage recycling and waste. We have learned so much over these 35 years. Let's profit from that learning!

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "H".

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director

AMERIPEN - Maryland HB 109 House E&T Committee Hea

Uploaded by: Dan Felton

Position: FAV



The power of packaging in balance.™

**AMERIPEN
American Institute for Packaging and the Environment**

**Testimony
in Favor of
Maryland House Bill 109
Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 22, 2023**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Dana Stein, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

AMERIPEN – the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment – appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 109 (Love) that seeks to establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland. The Task Force has the potential to provide vital information and reporting needed to improve recycling systems, processes, and infrastructure in Maryland and help achieve the State’s recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals. **We, therefore, are in favor of HB 109 and encourage this Committee to advance it.**

AMERIPEN is a coalition of stakeholders dedicated to improving packaging and the environment. We are the only material neutral packaging association in the United States. Our membership represents the entire packaging supply chain, including materials suppliers, packaging producers, consumer packaged goods companies and end-of-life materials managers. We focus on science and data to define and support our public policy positions and our comments are based on this rigorous research rooted in our commitment to achieve sustainable packaging, and effective and efficient recycling policies. We have several member companies with a presence in Maryland, and many more who import packaging materials and products into the state. The packaging industry supports more than 15,000 jobs and accounts for nearly \$4.8 billion in total economic output in Maryland.

Packaging plays a vital role in Maryland, ensuring the quality of consumer goods as they are manufactured, shipped, stored and consumed, protecting the health and safety of Marylanders who consume, use and handle those products. Packaging has value and none of it belongs in landfills, roadsides or waterways. We need to recover it to be recycled and reused, and no one knows better how to do that than the AMERIPEN members who design, supply, produce, distribute, collect and process it. They are driving innovation, designing for better environmental performance to boost recycling and evolve the recycling infrastructure.

AMERIPEN supports policy solutions, including packaging producer responsibility, that are:

- **Results Based:** Designed to achieve the recycling and recovery results needed to create a circular economy.
- **Effective and Efficient:** Focused on best practices and solutions that spur positive behaviors, increase packaging recovery, recapture material values and limit administrative costs.
- **Equitable and Fair:** Focused on all material types and funded by shared cost allocations that are scaled to make the system work and perceived as fair among all contributors and stakeholders.

In conclusion, AMERIPEN supports solutions that will improve packaging recovery and recycling systems. The Task Force created by HB 109 could provide an essential evaluation of Maryland’s capacity to recycle products and meet recycling goals as well as identify gaps in the current recycling system and needs for improvement of current infrastructure. Such reporting could be extremely helpful in the development of effective and feasible recycling legislation and would provide value to the entire packaging value chain that constitute AMERIPEN’s membership and provide value to the residents of Maryland. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.

HB0109-ET_MACo-SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



House Bill 109

Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: February 22, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** HB 109. The bill would establish a task force to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), providing an avenue for sensible changes.

The MRA is an important piece of state policy that outlines waste diversion and recycling efforts at the state and local level. Periodic updates to the Act are important to maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of the policy. HB 109 establishes a well-balanced task force charged with examining the MRA for potential updates. The task force would be made up of representatives from state and local government as well as the waste industry.

In Maryland, county governments are the principal actors in achieving the State's recycling goals. Counties operate the entire range of solid waste facilities, including recycling centers and other facilities. Counties actively promote to residents the importance of recycling and deliver the collection infrastructure that enables widespread resident participation. Even as recycling programs globally face challenges with back-end markets and other system shocks from outside Maryland, it is county governments who lead Maryland's response to continue efforts toward our shared goals. HB 109 recognizes this central role and brings county perspectives to these deliberations.

HB 109 outlines a practical approach to updating the Maryland Recycling Act. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to grant HB 109 a **FAVORABLE** report, and counties would gladly participate in the productive and timely dialog it should enable.

HB0109 Task Force on Recycling Policy Waste System

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Environment and Transportation
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: February 22, 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.

HB109_MDSierraClub_fav- 22Feb2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Martha Ainsworth

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation**Testimony: HB109 “Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland”****Position: Support****Hearing Date: February 22, 2023**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB109. This bill would create a Task Force of diverse stakeholders to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and make recommendations on updating the MRA and the feasibility of regional recycling and waste disposal facilities. The Task Force must report its findings and recommendations by June 30, 2024.

To make meaningful reductions in waste, conserve resources, and increase recycling and composting, we need a comprehensive, up-to-date review of the waste stream and diversion possibilities. The MRA, enacted in 1988, provided a foundation for building Maryland’s recycling and diversion systems. Its regulations have been updated incrementally, but the time has come for a more comprehensive review. In the 35 years since its passage, our waste stream has changed markedly both in types of waste and volume.

- There’s been exponential growth of consumer and industrial plastic waste with few recycling alternatives and an increased imperative to divert organic matter from landfills to reduce methane emissions.
- Sophisticated and varied batteries containing valuable rare earth materials necessary for industry and national security have proliferated.¹ Industry is increasingly looking at post-consumer waste to meet demand for metals.²
- Waste reduction has become an even greater imperative; in addition, new processes for treatment of waste have arisen, opening new opportunities for waste diversion and cost savings.
- Maryland is facing increased costs for recycling and disposal; shrinking capacity in existing landfills; and rising concern about the toxicity of products and implications for their recycling and incineration.
- In 2012, the State set a voluntary waste diversion goal of 60% by 2020, but Maryland’s actual diversion rate was only 42.25% that year.³

The Task Force will be able to build on the findings of the summer 2020 Environment and Transportation committee Work Group on Waste Reduction and Recycling. We appreciate that HB 109 incorporates greater representation by counties; participation of environmental groups; a review of recycling and waste

¹Mollice, A., *et al.* 2023. “U.S. Car Makers’ EV Plans Hinge on Made in America Batteries,” *The Wall Street Journal*, February 6. (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-car-makers-ev-plans-hinge-on-made-in-america-batteries-11675640784>)

²Spherical Insights.2022. “Aluminum Scrap Recycling Market is Projected to reach USD 25.12 Billion by 2030, Growing at a CAGR of 8.16%. *Global News Wire*, November 11. <https://www.globenewswire.com/en/news-release/2022/11/11/2554375/0/en/Aluminum-Scrap-Recycling-Market-Size-is-projected-to-reach-USD-25-12-Billion-by-2030-growing-at-a-CAGR-of-8-16-Spherical-Insights>.

³ The 42.25% diversion rate is the sum of the 38.22% recycling rate and a 4.03% source reduction credit. (MDE. *Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report, 2021 (CY2020 data, p. 2.)*

systems in Maryland; adoption of the principle of zero waste as a criterion in assessing the feasibility of regional recycling and waste disposal facilities; and a realistic timeline for the Task Force to deliver its findings and recommendations. For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB109.

Marie LaPorte
Chapter Zero Waste Team
marielaporte@verizon.net

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Mark Conway- Favorable Testimony HB0109.pdf

Uploaded by: Meredith Riley

Position: FAV



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

February 22, 2023

TO: Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

FROM: Councilman Mark Conway, District 4, Baltimore City

RE: HB0109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing today to submit favorable testimony for HB109, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. Recycling- and waste systems on the whole- are critical pieces of infrastructure that that can be major vehicles for sustainable practices, not only in Baltimore and my district, but for the state of Maryland as a whole.

Maryland’s recycling policy is guided by the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), a 1988 law that set mandatory recycling rates for state government and local jurisdictions. Each county and Baltimore City must recycle at least 20% or 35% of the county’s solid waste stream, depending on the county’s population. The City of Baltimore is required to provide an annual report to the Maryland Department of the Environment on recycling tonnage generated within the City as part of the MRA. The mandated rate of recycling for Baltimore City is 35 percent.

There are several examples of regional waste management partnerships in the State, and there is one in particular that I would tout as a “goal,” in modeling how important recycling is to the community it serves. When I think about waste systems and examples of success, I would point to the Prince George’s County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which I was lucky enough to get to visit with Baltimore City’s Department of Public Works recently. That facility is a testament to how beneficial investing in recycling and waste systems can be.

Today, Baltimore City does not have a recycling facility within its limits. Currently, Baltimore City recycling- the product of over 200,000 households- is transported to the Waste Management Recycle America Materials Recovery Facility in Elkridge, MD. The City of Baltimore contracts with Waste Management and with World Recycling to process the single-stream recycling collected by DPW.

It is my hope that one day Baltimore can play a greater role going forward in encouraging and practicing smarter, cleaner waste disposal. Having a task force created by HB109 would greatly benefit not only Baltimore City, but would make the entire state a greener, cleaner, and a more vibrant community that truly cares about where their waste is ending up.

With that, I would urge a favorable report on HB109.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_HB0109.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 22, 2023

HB 109

Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 109 establishes the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) and study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland. The task force must make recommendations on how to update MRA to focus on the recycling and diversion of materials to help achieve the State's recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities, including (1) the locations of possible facility sites, as specified; (2) cost-sharing opportunities; (3) developing service networks; and (4) advancing principles of zero waste.

In its pastoral statement on the *"World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation"* (USCCB, 2016), the United States conference of Catholic Bishops cited *"We would like to suggest a few tangible ways in which we can turn our prayer into witness. In Laudato si', Pope Francis reminds us of the "nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions," and suggests various practical steps such as recycling, turning off unnecessary lights and using public transportation (see no. 211). So many of these "daily actions" occur in the context of our families and in our places of worship and work. We can begin, in these ordinary settings, to care in deeper ways for the good things God has given us. This attitude of stewardship, forged in daily life, will, in turn, allow us to participate in the greater national and international efforts to care for the Earth and for future generations."*

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 109.

HB0109-ET-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 109

February 22, 2022

TO: Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: HOUSE 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy & Recycling & Waste System in Maryland
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 109.

HB 109 would establish a Task Force on Recycling Policy & Recycling & Waste Systems in Maryland to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA); study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland and make recommendations on updating the MRA and implement regional recycling and waste disposal facilities; and require the Task Force to report its finding by June 30, 2024.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act (Maryland Environmental Article, Title 9-505), counties must produce a recycling plan that provides for a certain recycling rate of the waste stream by weight. For each county with a population over 150,000, which includes Baltimore City, the required recycling rate is 35%.

There are several reasons that it would be beneficial to update the Maryland Recycling Act. Updates could include improved metrics, perhaps incorporating the metrics that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) identified in April, 2019; could move beyond recycling to incorporate aspects of Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland; and could move to the next level of waste reduction. An improved measurement system will better recognize waste diversion efforts and provide a more accurate picture of environmental efforts in Maryland.

Currently, Baltimore City, and other counties, spend staff time and resources to mail out hundreds of letters and e-mails to businesses requesting them to report their recycling activity for the year. Unfortunately, there is a low response rate to those requests. The reporting process is onerous for counties and businesses, and does not provide an accurate depiction of the recycling rate. The law to determine recycling rates is based on tonnages, even though the waste stream has changed significantly in recent years. For example, electronic communications replacing newspapers and other print, and in an effort to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts, light-weighting packaging and film pouches have replaced heavier glass jars and aluminum cans. In addition, the current law placed an emphasis on end-of-life management of materials and does not consider the impacts of waste prevention. It does not include many materials that are recycled and diverted, such as construction and demolition debris (C&D). Therefore, the State's recycling rate established by

the MRA does not provide a full picture of recycling activity due to incomplete reporting, restrictions on the materials that are included as “MRA recyclables” and the use of the limited metric of tonnage.

As the conversation shifts to focus on waste reduction and the circular economy, it may be time to update the MRA to look beyond recycling and to incorporate newer metrics that reflect the recyclable materials of today and the efforts to divert or reduce waste. This legislation will give all stakeholders the opportunity to discuss and research ways to improve the Maryland Recycling Act in order to reassess the goals and determine how to better reach and measure those goals. The recommendations of the workgroup will provide potential improvements that could be made to the Maryland Recycling Act.

For the above stated reasons, BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 109.

HB0109_FAV_NWRA_TF on Recycling Policy & Recycling

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Sara Love

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

DATE: February 22, 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.

The Maryland Recycling Network Response - HB109 Ta

Uploaded by: Peter Houstle

Position: FAV



February 20, 2023

To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committee
Re: HB 109 Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

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HB 109: Creation of a Task Force to Modernize the Maryland Recycling Act

We support HB 109.

The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) enthusiastically supports House Bill 109, sponsored by Delegate Sara Love. HB 109 calls for the creation of a Task Force consisting of 21 key stakeholders from throughout the state to review the Maryland Recycling Act and study Maryland's recycling and waste systems. It will then make recommendations on updating the Act to improve waste and recycling in Maryland.

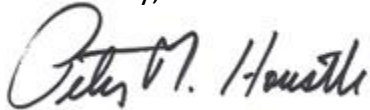
Careful review of the Maryland Recycling Act, enacted in 1988, is most appropriate given the passage of 35 years. Recycling has changed so much since then. The first single stream curbside collection started in Seattle that year. Plastic recycling was beginning, starting with PET soft drink bottles and HDPE plastic milk jugs. Newspaper collection at the curbside was common but collecting cardboard boxes was rare and mixed paper inconceivable. Materials Recycling Facilities (MRFs) were primitive compared to today's marvels of engineering.

So of course, the Act should be updated to embody the best of environmental objectives and to improve how Maryland's local governments manage recycling and waste. We have learned so much over these 35 years. Let's profit from that learning!

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director

HB 109 - MRA - LOVE Wttn.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Love

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling
and Waste Systems in Maryland**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, Members of ENT:

Maryland’s recycling policy is guided by Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), which sets mandatory recycling rates for State government and local jurisdictions, as well as a voluntary statewide waste diversion goal of 60% and a voluntary statewide recycling goal of 55% by 2020. Each county and Baltimore City must recycle at least 20% or 35% of the jurisdiction’s solid waste stream (depending on population) and must submit a plan to the Maryland Department of Environment, as to how they will achieve that rate. The MRA sets allowable and not allowable recycling commodities.

When enacted in the 1980s, the MRA was one of the most progressive laws addressing recycling. Throughout the years, the legislature has added to the MRA, but we have not taken a step back and looked at it from a wholistic perspective. Are we counting the right things? That is, are the things we are counting towards the recycling rate materials whose collection will help the environment? Is the MRA aligned with the State’s recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals?

HB 109 will bring together stakeholders from across the State: industry and environmentalists, counties large and small, municipalities, legislators, the Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Recycling Network; as well as those representing the perspectives of composting, environmental justice, and waste disposal, to update the MRA. The breadth and depth of experience, knowledge and vision represented on the task force will help move Maryland’s recycling system forward.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 109

HB109 Trash Free MD Colaiton FAV 022223.pdf

Uploaded by: shari wilson

Position: FAV



HB 109 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Date: February 20, 2023

Position: Support

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We support HB 109. There have been numerous developments in the field of waste management and recycling in recent years – from the decision by China to stop importing materials for recycling to changes

in the production of plastics to the economics of recycling for local governments in Maryland to the science around the presence of micro-plastics in our waterways, waters and the human body.

This is an opportune time for Maryland to review the current status of what is working and what is not and to identify the many opportunities for Maryland: better environmental performance, the benefits of more recycling, and moving toward a circular economy. The Maryland Recycling Act was enacted over 30 years ago. There have been updates over the years – for batteries, other items containing mercury, composting and other specialty items, but the basic framework is the same. In many respects, it has worked well.

It is time, though, to examine, from a statewide perspective, what the external factors affecting the recycling system are, whether it is possible or necessary to address some of those and to ensure our waste management programs are as effective as they can be.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Contact: **Shari Wilson, Interim Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland** (shari@trashfreemaryland.org)

Annapolis Green

Surfrider Foundation Ocean City

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Trash Free Maryland

Environment Maryland

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Maryland PIRG

MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Mr. Trash Wheel

MOM's Organic Market

National Aquarium

Plastic Free Queen Anne's County

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Rock Creek Conservancy

MDE HB0109 SUPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: FAV



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 0109

Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Position: Support

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: February 22, 2023

From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 109. This bill would establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland with the purpose of reviewing the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), studying the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and making recommendations on updating the MRA and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities.

House Bill 109 could be a valuable resource for municipalities, private companies, and other organizations that want to understand and expand their recycling capabilities. These findings could help organizations better understand the recommendations on waste diversion and how that impacts reduction in greenhouse gas reduction goals as well as the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities. With that understanding, municipalities, private companies, and other organizations could take steps to help counties increase their recycling rates subject to the MRA.

House Bill 109 also helps define “recyclable materials” as those materials that would otherwise become solid waste for disposal in a refuse disposal system and may be collected, separated, composted, or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. The bill also defines “solid waste stream” as garbage or refuse that would, unless recycled, be disposed of in a refuse disposal system and includes organic material capable of being composted that is not composted in accordance with MDE’s composting facility regulations.

MDE currently collects data from counties on non-MRA recycling and publishes the tonnage of all MRA and non-MRA materials reported as recycled in the annual Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report. MDE has also established metrics and corresponding voluntary statewide goals to be achieved by 2035, which allow MDE to measure the state’s achievement of its sustainable material management goals.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 109.

HB 109 - MoCo_Shofar_SWA (Ga23).pdf

Uploaded by: Steven Shofar

Position: FWA



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 109

DATE: February 22, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Steven Shofar (steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support with Amendments

Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Montgomery County strongly supports the passage of House Bill 109, which would create a Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA). House Bill 109 proposes specific members of this Task Force, including one representative of each of the four largest counties in the State, and Montgomery County looks forward to serving in this important effort. Updating the recycling policy is important because it will allow us to: (1) improve our understanding of recycling levels in the State through the use of a common comparison with an up-to-date, clear definition of recyclables; (2) promote recycling; and (3) understand market weaknesses and strengths to develop further recycling programs.

The Maryland Recycling Act has been and will continue to be an important tool for Montgomery County and other counties to use for the purpose of quantifying our recycling success rates, being able to create accurate comparisons to peers, and most importantly, driving markets to expand recycling. However, as crucial as it is, the MRA has not been updated in recent years, even though the recycling markets have seen drastic change.

Another benefit of House Bill 109 is that it acknowledges the importance of waste on greenhouse gas emissions and requires evaluation of waste and recycling systems through that lens. Increasing recycling is important for reducing waste, but also in reducing emissions from energy consumption during the extraction process for new materials, reducing emissions from incineration and landfills, and by increasing the carbon storage from trees as a secondary effect of reduced extraction and deforestation. Properly recycling common recyclables – plastics and glass – can reduce emissions by 50% compared to new materials.

There are less common recyclables that also need greater focus. An updated MRA could enable this to occur. There are numerous other improvements that we hope will be addressed in a new MRA as well, particularly relating to definitions that need to be made

consistent. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection has created a list of those, which can be found below for your information.

House Bill 109 is a very worthwhile piece of legislation. I urge the Committee to act on it expeditiously.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

Incongruent Definitions in the Current Maryland Recycling Act as Identified by the Montgomery County Department of the Environment

1. No liquid material count towards Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) recycling even if currently recycled (versus burned for energy recovery or blended into biofuels). Specifically: motor oil, vegetable oil, animal protein/fats (liquid only), industrial fluids (nonhazardous), and antifreeze. This resulted in 6,821 tons in 2018.
2. Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is not considered municipal solid waste though it is a significant amount of materials, in tons, that we manage. In 2018, this was 119,929 tons in Montgomery County. This category of materials bears reassessment, given opportunities in recycling that have grown in recent years, as well as goals for sustainable materials management and the embedded carbon. There is significant opportunity for greenhouse gas reductions through recycling C&D waste.
3. Glass is not counted as recyclable if from transportation equipment, but there is demand from automotive businesses to recycle this material.
4. Oxygen and propane tanks which are currently recyclable but do not count towards MRA recycled materials.
5. Roofing shingles are recyclable if from the manufacturing process (pre-consumer) but not if they are from a construction job (post-consumer) even if recycled. This may be a C&D classification issue. This was 34,183 tons in 2019.
6. Tires count at a rate of 12% of the total weight if burned in cement kilns for fuel. This is inconsistent with biofuel derived from refining.
7. Mandate reporting of recyclable materials by processors to the counties where recyclable materials were generated. This is currently an encouraged, voluntary effort, by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). This voluntary level doesn't result in an adequate level of reporting, so we seek follow-through on making MDE Processor of Recyclables Reports mandatory.

American Cleaning Institute - Testimony - HB109.pd

Uploaded by: Brennan Georgianni

Position: UNF



american cleaning institute®

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Chairman Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland State Senate

Re: Testimony from the American Cleaning Institute on HB 109 – Unfavorable

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 109 which is being heard before your committee. The American Cleaning Institute (ACI) – the association for detergent and cleaning product manufacturers – has a vested interest in ensuring packaging such as that which is encompassed by this legislative proposal does not become waste. That is why we have a goal to eliminate all cleaning product packaging waste by 2040 and are already making great strides in creating more recyclable packaging, reducing our packaging usage and incorporating more recycled content into the packaging we do introduce to market.

We appreciate that the Legislature is considering a number of proposals to address packaging waste in Maryland. As such, we are happy to mention that we are favorable with amendments on HB284 which is a more comprehensive overhaul of the recycling system in the state.

Therefore, we do not believe that HB 109 is necessary. Further, this bill brings together a number of important stakeholders to recommend updates to the Maryland Recycling Act, but fails to include manufacturers on this Task Force.

We would like to reiterate that ACI members support efforts to reduce packaging waste. We hope the Legislature will take more time to contemplate ACI input on this bill. ACI looks forward to providing necessary input regarding the performance of our products and packaging to achieve desired policy goals.

Sincerely,

Brennan Georgianni
Director, State Government Affairs
BGeorgianni@cleaninginstitute.org