

**TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION**

HB1139 – Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

Position: Favorable

March 8, 2023 Public Hearing

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Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned 14 organizations support HB1139 and encourage the committee to pass this bill. We thank Delegate Boyce for bringing this legislation forward to establish needed funds and grant programs to support waste reduction and composting throughout the state of Maryland.

Maryland's stagnant recycling rate, severely underestimated greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and shrinking landfill capacity, indicate the critical need for investment into waste reduction. Maryland has numerous policies supporting healthy soils, food waste recovery, recycling, and composting (e.g. HB 1063 on the Maryland Healthy Soils Program and HB 264 on Large Food Waste Generators in 2021) but funding for implementation and support is sorely lacking.

HB 1139 will establish significant funding for waste reduction projects and infrastructure including reduction, reuse, repair, composting, recycling, and anti-dumping by incorporating a nominal surcharge on waste disposal.

In addition, the dedicated funding for on-farm composting would support Maryland farmers, not only with their own farm materials management, soil quality, and farm resilience, but also with contributing to cleaner Maryland watersheds, increased resilience to extreme weather, and stronger Maryland food systems.

This model is successful in numerous other states (such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Carolina) and has had positive impacts on their local communities, economies, and the environment. We strongly believe this model will work successfully in Maryland.

We urge the Committee to support HB1139 to advance waste diversion, build necessary infrastructure, and support local governments, businesses, schools, farmers, and more in their efforts to divert waste from Maryland's polluting landfills and trash incinerators.

Sincerely,

[Blue Water Baltimore](#)

[Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

[Echotopia LLC](#)

[Go Green OC](#)

[The Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#)

[Little Falls Watershed Alliance](#)

[Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights](#)

[Maryland Clean Water Action](#)

[MLC - Climate Justice Wing](#)

[MOM's Organic Market](#)

[National Aquarium](#)

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

[Sustainable Hyattsville](#)

Attachment:

ILSR Article, Feb. 2022, [Surcharges On Waste Disposal Fund Composting](#)