



House Bill 1139

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 9, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1139. The bill would create several grant funds to encourage composting, environmental stewardship, and recycling.

Addressing climate change will require bold vision and investment. One of the most pressing questions in environmental policy is how to reimagine waste infrastructure to turn this liability into a sustainable asset. The programs funded under HB 1139 will serve as the spark to this necessary and long overdue transformation. Waste that can be diverted and put to other uses means less material taking up space in landfills, less methane emissions, and less need for new materials.

Under HB 1139, the State will charge a \$2 per ton tipping fee on waste haulers at landfills. This fee will then be distributed among three funds with the purpose of funding new waste reduction infrastructure. If counties already established a similar waste reduction program with a similar funding mechanism, they may opt out of the program and the \$2 per ton fee at their landfills. This approach strikes a balance, allowing counties to go above and beyond state programs, but at the same time providing resources to those jurisdictions who may be in the early stages of reimagining their waste systems.

Counties praise the vision of HB 1139 and its novel approach to funding waste reduction infrastructure. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 1139 a **FAVORABLE** report.