



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

In the House Environment & Transportation Committee, February 15, 2023

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 253

Environment - On-Farm Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption -
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We stand for 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC supports exempting an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit under COMAR 26.04.11.06 if the facility meets the requirements in Section 9-1725(c)(3)(I) and (II) (page 3, line 32, and 4, lines 1 - 18).

However, we believe that the record keeping provisions of Section 9-1725(c)(3)(III) (page 4, lines 19 - 24) are ambiguous and could be construed to mean that the record keeping requirement would apply even to farms that compost just their own animal manure and bedding produced on-site. Such a requirement would be unduly burdensome and highly impractical for small farms that compost only their own manure and bedding.

Therefore, we request that HB 253 be amended to clarify that the record keeping requirement does not apply to farms that compost only their own manure and animal bedding.

Respectfully submitted,

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