

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association  
a chapter of the



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

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 847 – *Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup*

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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 with amendment** House Bill 847.

House Bill 847 establishes an Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup, staffed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). The Workgroup is charged with: studying the current regulations regarding anaerobic digestion and the process of anaerobic digestion; identifying and examining categories of digestate produced during anaerobic digestion and the appropriate uses to recycle the digestate produced as agricultural fertilizer and manufactured topsoil; identify infrastructure needs for the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility; and make recommendations regarding requirements for the construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility. The Workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 30, 2023.

Organic waste management, including the responsible and effective recycling of organic waste has been the focus of consideration by the General Assembly in recent years. Anaerobic digestion is an approach to organic waste management that holds the potential to greatly increase the effective and environmentally responsible management of this waste stream. However, to effectively complete the charges and objectives of this workgroup, it is critical that all relevant stakeholders in the Maryland waste and recycling sectors are reflected in the membership of the workgroup. To that end, MDSWA requests that the bill be amended to include a representative from MDSWA on the workgroup, given MDSWA's member involvement in all aspects of the State's waste and recycling infrastructure and service. With the adoption of the following amendment, a favorable report is requested.

On page 2, in line 1, strike "two" and substitute "three", in line 3, strike "and", and after "Network" in line 4, insert "and one of the members designated by the Chairman of the Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association"