

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

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

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: March 8, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1088 – *Emissions Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management – Local Authority*

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 **oppose** House Bill 1088.

House Bill 1088 authorizes a local jurisdiction to adopt an ordinance, rule, or regulation to regulate emission standards, ambient air quality standards, or refuse disposal and solid waste management provided the jurisdiction's actions are at least as stringent and do not conflict with the State standards.

Providing the authority for local jurisdictions to adopt their own rules and regulations relative to emissions, ambient air quality standards, refuse disposal and other solid waste management programs could result in conflicting standards across jurisdictions, resulting in the disruption and degradation of efficient and effective refuse collection, processing, recycling, and disposal. While the intention of the legislation may be to address issues relevant to specific communities, the State has recently instituted environmental justice (EJ) scoring for all permits relative to the programs encompassed in this legislation. EJ scores are specifically designed to ensure the State considers the communities in which permits are to be issued.

Further, statewide legislation, like the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 and other environmental initiatives, are specifically designed to improve the climate, air, and water in all jurisdictions in the state. Passage of House Bill 1088 would have significant negative consequences for effective environmental permitting and regulation and would also produce unintended consequences for the communities the legislation seeks to protect. An unfavorable report is requested.