

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 Stephanie Smith

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 22, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 609 – *Environment – Waste Haulers – Reporting Requirement*

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 609.

House Bill 609 requires waste haulers to report information on the amount and type of waste disposed of at a recycling facility or disposal site located in that County. MDSWA appreciates that the intent of this legislation is to assist Counties in meeting their reporting requirements regarding waste disposal and recycling. However, while certain Counties may find challenges in collecting the relevant data, MDSWA would respectfully assert that the provisions of this legislation create a reporting requirement which is impossible for waste haulers to perform.

Under current law, material recycling facilities (MRFs), which accept the majority of recyclables in the State that are collected for processing, already report to each County the volume of materials that are received from each jurisdiction. Instituting a separate reporting requirement for haulers would create confusion and would not produce data that is not already reported to the Counties. Furthermore, haulers do not necessarily know the weight or volume of a load. This information is determined at the disposal facility or MRF when the hauler delivers the load to the facility. It is why the MRFs provide the information to the Counties. In addition, the landfills that accept waste for disposal are publicly owned and operated by the Counties and the data regarding volume for disposal is therefore also already captured. Finally, commercial waste collection, processing, and disposal often involve collection routes for which a hauler cannot specifically define volumes and weight associated with any given load which also may have been collected from more than one jurisdiction. Once again, the reporting requirements by disposal and processing facilities will provide the Counties with more reliable data.

MDSWA understands that some jurisdictions want to ensure they are getting the relevant data they need to complete their reporting requirements. To that end, separate legislation, House Bill 109, which creates a Task Force to review Maryland's recycling policy and recycling and waste systems would be an appropriate mechanism to determine how Counties could receive timely and reliable data to assist them with their reporting requirements. MDSWA respectfully requests that House Bill 609 receive an unfavorable report and that if the Committee chooses to advance House Bill 109, that the charge of the Task Force include evaluating mechanisms to improve relevant data reporting to Counties.