

Solid Waste Diversion and Disposal and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use Bill
([HB 1139](#))

March 6, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a mother of 2 children, as a new resident in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, as and a first generation Mexican-American, and as a member of the [North American Food Systems Network leadership circle](#), I am writing to express my **support for HB1139**. HB1139 is a crucial step towards stronger and healthier local food systems. Well made composting makes Maryland soils more fertile. Many of my neighbor farmers have plenty of space for decentralized composting, but lack the infrastructure, the know-how and the staff to do it. Composting also helps us recover nutrients embedded in avocado pits, pineapple rinds, vegetable peels, and other food scraps from products we are all importing from California, Florida, México and then squandering and an sending them to landfills and incinerators, where its anaerobic decomposition produces methane, potent greenhouse gas and other toxic gasses.

What is a nominal per-ton waste surcharge? Picture it as a mindfulness reminder to the solid waste companies that "we can do better" This modest surcharge will give Maryland's numerous policies supporting healthy soils, food waste recovery, recycling, and composting a real chance to blossom! HB1139 is the fertilizer we all need!

This bill will also help us share tips for reducing food waste, which can save the average family in MD up to \$1,800 dollars a year! Please pass HB1139, you will be glad you did! It's a nudge towards the massive deep climate adaptation solutions we desperately need.

With gratitude,

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