



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

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February 22, 2023

TO: Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

FROM: Councilman Mark Conway, District 4, Baltimore City

RE: HB0109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing today to submit favorable testimony for HB109, Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. Recycling- and waste systems on the whole- are critical pieces of infrastructure that that can be major vehicles for sustainable practices, not only in Baltimore and my district, but for the state of Maryland as a whole.

Maryland’s recycling policy is guided by the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), a 1988 law that set mandatory recycling rates for state government and local jurisdictions. Each county and Baltimore City must recycle at least 20% or 35% of the county’s solid waste stream, depending on the county’s population. The City of Baltimore is required to provide an annual report to the Maryland Department of the Environment on recycling tonnage generated within the City as part of the MRA. The mandated rate of recycling for Baltimore City is 35 percent.

There are several examples of regional waste management partnerships in the State, and there is one in particular that I would tout as a “goal,” in modeling how important recycling is to the community it serves. When I think about waste systems and examples of success, I would point to the Prince George’s County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which I was lucky enough to get to visit with Baltimore City’s Department of Public Works recently. That facility is a testament to how beneficial investing in recycling and waste systems can be.

Today, Baltimore City does not have a recycling facility within its limits. Currently, Baltimore City recycling- the product of over 200,000 households- is transported to the Waste Management Recycle America Materials Recovery Facility in Elkridge, MD. The City of Baltimore contracts with Waste Management and with World Recycling to process the single-stream recycling collected by DPW.

It is my hope that one day Baltimore can play a greater role going forward in encouraging and practicing smarter, cleaner waste disposal. Having a task force created by HB109 would greatly benefit not only Baltimore City, but would make the entire state a greener, cleaner, and a more vibrant community that truly cares about where their waste is ending up.

With that, I would urge a favorable report on HB109.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.