



HB 109 - Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

Date: February 20, 2023

Position: Support

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We support HB 109. There have been numerous developments in the field of waste management and recycling in recent years – from the decision by China to stop importing materials for recycling to changes

in the production of plastics to the economics of recycling for local governments in Maryland to the science around the presence of micro-plastics in our waterways, waters and the human body.

This is an opportune time for Maryland to review the current status of what is working and what is not and to identify the many opportunities for Maryland: better environmental performance, the benefits of more recycling, and moving toward a circular economy. The Maryland Recycling Act was enacted over 30 years ago. There have been updates over the years – for batteries, other items containing mercury, composting and other specialty items, but the basic framework is the same. In many respects, it has worked well.

It is time, though, to examine, from a statewide perspective, what the external factors affecting the recycling system are, whether it is possible or necessary to address some of those and to ensure our waste management programs are as effective as they can be.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Contact: **Shari Wilson, Interim Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland (shari@trashfreemaryland.org)**

Annapolis Green

Surfrider Foundation Ocean City

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Trash Free Maryland

Environment Maryland

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Maryland PIRG

MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Mr. Trash Wheel

MOM's Organic Market

National Aquarium

Plastic Free Queen Anne's County

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Rock Creek Conservancy