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BILL NO.: **HB 253**

TITLE: Environment - On-Farm Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption

SPONSOR: Delegate Shetty

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 14, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 253 – Environment - On-Farm Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption. This legislation would require the department of the environment to adopt regulations to exempt an on-farm composting facility from the requirement to obtain a permit under certain circumstances.

As residents and local governments throughout Maryland continue to find alternatives to filling landfills with solid waste, many have turned to composting as a responsible option for the disposal of organic waste. Composting allows farmers and individuals to return nutrients from organic waste to crops in a manner that reduces the environmental impact of letting the crops degrade on their own.

Last year, the County passed legislation which brought local composting regulations in line with the state and opened local regulations to allow for the use of storage containers for larger on and off-site composting efforts. This legislation would further County solid waste policy by reducing regulatory burdens on small businesses seeking to implement small-scale composting.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 253. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.