



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1139

Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

Date: March 8, 2023	Position: Support
To: House Environment and Transportation Committee	From: Matt Stegman
	Title: Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1139 which establishes funding for projects that reduce the amount of waste burned in incinerators and collected in landfills through high performance reduction, reuse, and on-farm composting initiatives.

Food waste affects climate change

The diversion of food waste from incinerators and landfills through composting helps minimize the amount of carbon dioxide and methane released into the atmosphere by these traditional methods of waste management. Lower greenhouse gas emissions improve air quality, reduce impacts to human health, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Soil health is key to the future of agriculture

Well-managed composting of waste adds biologically rich material to soils, feeding essential micro-organisms and fungi that improve soil health and enhance production of healthy, nutritious food. Healthier soils increase water holding capacity, facilitate nutrient cycling, and reduce soil loss, helping farmers maintain their land and minimizing risks to water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.

HB 1139 promotes on-farm composting

HB 1139 promotes on-farm composting and compost use through a nominal surcharge on waste disposed at landfills, incinerators, and waste transfer stations. More than \$30 million per year generated by the surcharge will be distributed statewide through grants that mobilize critical investment in waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting.

This legislation will improve soil health, help fight the effects of climate change, and transition Maryland to a more effective, equitable, and environmentally sound waste management system.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1139.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.