



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0134
FOOD WASTE AND SOLID WASTE REDUCTION – GRANTS, FUND, AND
SURCHARGE**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0134 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Food waste is a growing problem in our state. It comprises a quarter of the trash that we throw in landfills and creates additional greenhouse gases as it breaks down. Additionally, given the number of Marylanders going hungry, it seems that keeping as much food waste out of landfills as possible is an important goal.

This bill, if enacted, would divert as much food as possible from landfills, by creating two programs that would provide grants to programs supporting on-farm composting; reducing the amount of food wasted; redistributing unused food to food banks; or encouraging more upcycling and remanufacture of materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.

These programs would be funded by a solid waste surcharge or the use of other state and federal funds.

Our members appreciate the effort to get in front of this growing problem with real solutions. Trash, and especially food waste are problems that we can't kick down the road.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.