



**Bill:** SB134 Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge, Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund, Grant Programs

**Date:** February 11, 2025

**Position:** Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

Trash Free Maryland strongly supports SB134, which will establish grant programs and generate needed funds to reduce and divert wasted food in Maryland, including funding projects, infrastructure, education, and technical assistance to transition from single-use food service ware to durable and reusable food service ware.

Trash Free Maryland works toward a state that is free of trash, debris, and litter, and where communities, public spaces and waterways are safe, healthy, and support economic viability. We base this work on significant contributors to trash pollution, identified through neighborhood and waterway cleanup data.

Trash Free Maryland urges you to support this legislation for the following reasons:

- Single-use, disposable food service ware contributes to unnecessary waste and plastic pollution found in our litter cleanups and also as a contaminant in recycling. A transition to durable and reusable food service ware can reduce plastic waste and pollution in litter and recycling processes.
- The shift from single-use to reusable food service ware alternatives can require an initial investment in durable products or dishwashers; funding to support this transition can enable a permanent switch.
- Microplastics are an increasing concern for both environmental and public health. Providing grants to support a transition to reusable food service ware and to organics recycling projects that produce minimally-contaminated soil amendments would be a step toward reducing plastic pollution.
- Reducing and diverting wasted food supports Maryland's climate and waste reduction goals.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to support SB134.

Contact:

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