



SB 134: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs

Senate Education, Energy, & Environment, and Budget & Taxation Committees
February 11, 2025

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Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland and Washington, D.C. (MD-DC) Chapter of the US Composting Council represents a variety of sectors and is dedicated to advancing composting and compost use in Maryland and D.C. The Chapter supports SB 134 and urges a favorable report.

A major limiting factor for the expansion of food waste reduction and composting in Maryland is cost. States with similar goals to Maryland for diverting food waste from landfills have seen success only when the goals are supported through investment in infrastructure.

Food waste is a significant greenhouse gas producer when landfilled or burned, and food is the single largest component of the waste stream, making up 22 percent of municipal solid waste. Diverting food waste from landfills and incinerators is not only an important step to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and extending the limited capacity of landfills, but it also provides significant co-benefits.

Investment in locally-driven food waste reduction, food rescue, and composting solutions facilitates emissions reductions, decreases the need for long-distance hauling of materials, creates high-quality soil amendments to build healthy soils and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, and supports green jobs and community engagement, particularly in overburdened and underserved communities. These are the outcomes that SB 134 seeks to achieve with a dedicated and reliable funding stream.

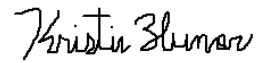
Funding through a modest \$2 per ton surcharge on waste disposed would raise over \$14 million in funding to build Maryland's food waste reduction and composting capacity.

SB 134 promotes the necessary investment and collaborative effort needed to build Maryland's capacity and infrastructure for organics management at all levels. When established, this program would spur new businesses, enable farms

seeking to compost onsite or utilize compost, and will support Maryland's goals to reduce wasted food.

We urge the committee to pass SB 134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristie Blumer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Kristie" and last name "Blumer" clearly legible.

Kristie Blumer
President, MD-DC Board