



## **HB 338 State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste**

**Senate Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Hearing Date:** March 25, 2025

**Position:** Favorable

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

HB338 prohibits the disposal of yard waste collected from the grounds of a state building or state highway in a single-use plastic container, and it requires state yard waste to be sent to organics recycling or mulching facilities if facilities with adequate receiving capacity are located within a 30-mile radius.

We enthusiastically support the goals of reducing plastic waste and supporting a transition away from single-use plastic. This bill's requirement to collect yard waste in a container that is not disposed of with the yard waste or that is a compostable paper bag will make it easier and more efficient to recycle organic materials. This will help further diversion of yard waste from disposal, prevent contamination of organic materials, and support Maryland's recycling and diversion goals.

Prohibiting the collection and disposal of yard waste in single-use plastic containers also helps the state set a visible example to educate and support wider adoption of similar policies to transition away from single-use plastic use in local jurisdictions.

**For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB338.**

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Trash Free Maryland

Blue Water Baltimore

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

National Aquarium

Clean Water Action

Little Falls Watershed Alliance