



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 7, 2025

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

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**Re:** **Support of SB134 - Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB134, legislation that will create grant programs to divert compostable waste from landfills as well as on-farm composting and compost use. Funded by a nominal surcharge on waste disposed at landfills, incinerators, and waste transfer stations, this grant program could generate as much as \$30 million per year to be made available to mobilize investments in waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting.

A significant amount of the grant funds would be earmarked to support on-farm composting and compost use. Expanding the ability to compost on farms is essential for farmers to generate the needed organic matter and natural fertilizer to improve soil health and make farm fields more resilient. Programs like this one would inject money into a fledgling industry that would help divert compostable materials from the landfill and to a farm for a much better and more sustainable use.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB134

Tyler Hough

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*Please contact Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions*