



January 27, 2025

**Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Larry Foster, and I am here today on behalf of my company, Evergreen Disposal. We are a family-owned, local business proudly serving the Southern Maryland community for the past 16 years. Throughout this time, Evergreen has been a cornerstone of the community, remaining committed to dumping locally in Southern Maryland, even when out-of-state options were available.

I am here to express my strong opposition to SB134, an unnecessary tax that will place undue burdens on small haulers like myself and the residents we serve. If passed, this tax will force small haulers to either absorb the increased costs—placing additional strain on already thin margins—or pass them on to homeowners, many of whom are already feeling financial pressures.

Here are some figures that highlight the challenges our industry has endured over the past few years:

1. The cost of a new trash truck has increased from \$285,000 to \$445,000 in just three years—a 64% jump.
2. Tire prices have risen by 32% during the same period.
3. Recycling dumping fees have escalated from \$68.00 per ton to \$105.00 per ton—a staggering 64% increase.
4. Our local county run landfill just had the largest yearly increase in history with an 11% increase.

These numbers illustrate the financial strain that haulers like Evergreen are already navigating. Adding a tax that can be reviewed and adjusted every two years by the Maryland Department of the Environment creates further uncertainty. Where do these increases stop?

Additionally, this proposed tax could have unintended consequences for Maryland's environment. Historically, taxes on waste disposal have led to increased illegal dumping and other unregulated practices, which can result in significant environmental harm. The purpose of this legislation could be undermined by the very behavior it inadvertently encourages.

Another critical concern is the economic impact on local communities. By forcing haulers to seek cheaper disposal options out of state, this tax could reduce revenue for local landfills and transfer stations, thereby negatively affecting local economies.

With these facts in mind, I strongly urge you to vote **NO** on SB134. This tax would harm small businesses, burden homeowners, and create potential risks for Maryland's environment and economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Larry Foster*

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