



February 19, 2025

To: Vice Chair Kagan, Chair Feldman and the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Re: SB0591: Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

Dear Vice Chair Kagan,

I would like to thank you for the thoughtful question raised during the Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Hearing on February 18, 2025, regarding the potential consumer fee amounts that could be established in regulation under the enactment of **SB0591: Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act**.

Specifically, I am providing available fee data, as I promised during the hearing.

The California fee structure implemented to fund its electronics recycling program ranges from [\\$4-\\$6 per device](#), and Maryland Recycling Network has no reason to believe rates, if established in Maryland, would range any higher than those amounts. This is due to discussions we have had with MDE regarding the anticipated amounts that are estimated to be raised in the state with a similar established fee. We believe amounts in that range would adequately fund a statewide recycling program here in Maryland.

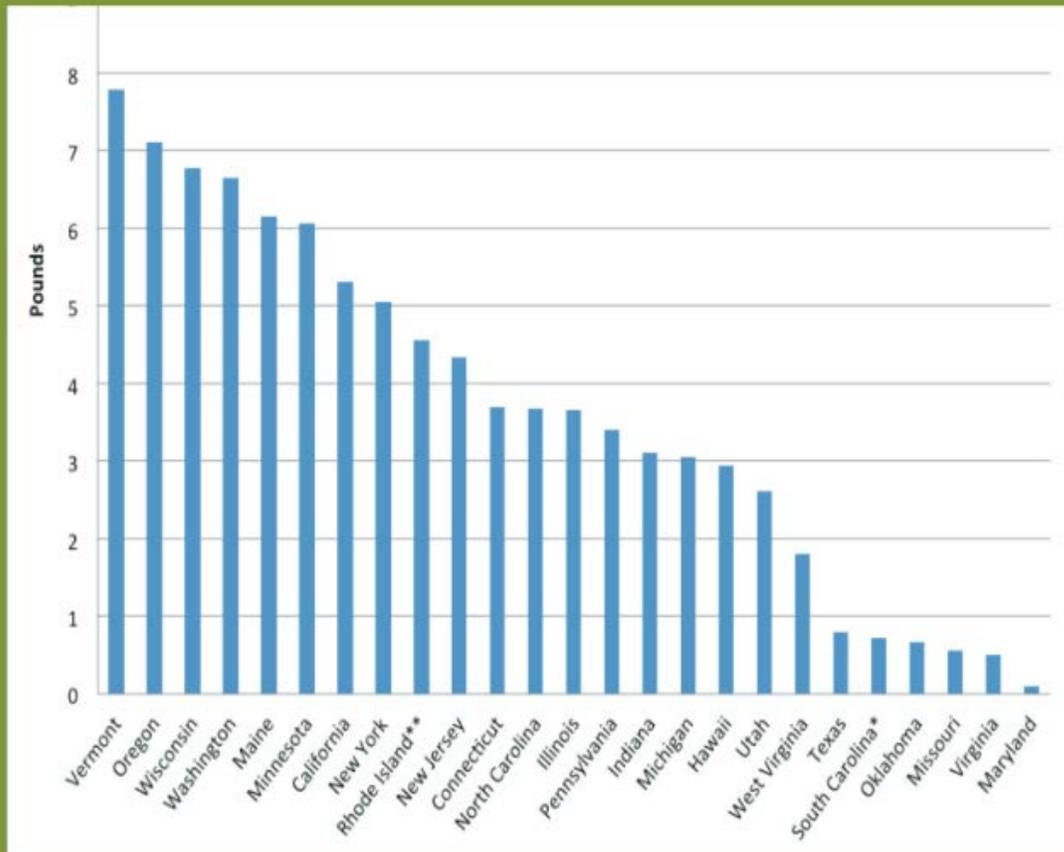
SB0591 will also allow jurisdictions in Maryland to retract existing taxes, system benefit charges or drop-off fees (for those that do charge) which are currently in place for electronics recycling programs.

Please note, the Pennsylvania Legislature has also recently considered passing a similar consumer fee (eco fee) to be added to the purchase of new electronic devices to assist in funding electronics recycling there, as their state law has seen similar underfunding challenges as the Maryland law. The Pennsylvania House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee have been supportive of this initiative and [described](#) the Bill Sponsor, Representative Lisa Borowski's, efforts as "Herculean."

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As you can see below, Maryland is unfortunately trailing the rest of the country due to our current law and its inadequacies. Maryland Recycling Network knows that Maryland could be leading the country in its electronics recycling rates, if given the chance provided by a sustainable funding source, as our local governments run excellent collection sites and public education campaigns.

E-scrap collection volumes per capita in states with recycling laws, 2013



Note: This chart presents available data on program collections performance, but does not provide an "apples to apples" comparison as the covered products and covered entities (residents, businesses, schools, etc.) vary from state to state.

Source: Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse

* 2012 data

** 2011 data

Source: [E-Scrap Newsletter Article \(March 2015\)](#)

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Please note: Maryland's electronics recycled weights have significantly decreased since 2013, the data point represented in this chart, due to electronics recycling costs and the severe increase in landfilling our electronics in the state since then. Thus, we are significantly worse off from what is represented in the above chart.

Maryland **CY 2013** data: **34,016,026 pounds** of electronics recycled

Maryland **CY 2022** (most recent available) data: **15,607,640 pounds** of electronics recycled.

Source: Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Annual Reports:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/Pages/LandPublications.aspx>

Maryland Recycling Network also notes its serious concerns regarding the large hit taxpayers may face once Maryland [landfills reach their capacity in 21 years](#), due to costly landfill expansions and out-of-state waste transfer measures that will need to be taken to accommodate our disposal volumes.

We note that the Advisory Council's feedback would be an important component in providing guidance on the fee amounts that would be established in regulation, if SB0591 were to be enacted.

Thus, we advocate for modest consumer fees assessed on new covered electronic products in order to fully fund a comprehensive statewide electronics recycling program, so that we can redirect these items from taking up valuable airspace in the state's landfills.

Lastly, we are proud of the incentive structure in the bill that rewards consumers for utilizing environmentally friendly consumer habits, in that they would not be charged this consumer fee if they are purchasing a refurbished electronic device or one listed for resale. Thus, those Maryland residents who choose to be mindful of their environmental footprint when purchasing electronic devices will be rewarded by not paying this additional fee if they support the recycler/refurbished electronic device market.

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful consideration on such an important topic. I am available to answer any additional questions, if needed.

Sincerely,



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President

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