



**January 29, 2025**

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Re: HB 9 Food System Resiliency Council**

Maryland Recycling Network members are public and private sectors recyclers and recycling advocates. Our members operate county and municipal recycling programs. We promote sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Our members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We support HB 9

Thank you Delegate Charkoudian for introducing this legislation.

HB 9 provides a definition of "wasted food" that is similar to that used by the US EPA for alternative methods of managing food waste that do not involve disposal, along with disposing in landfills or combustion facilities. This provides statutory recognition of the importance of these alternative methods. Food waste is the second largest component of municipal solid waste in Maryland and nationally. By using food waste productively through food donations we help to feed the hungry. Food waste that is inedible for humans can often be used safely as animal feed. Finally, composting and anaerobic digestion provide invaluable benefits through their final products. By using these and other alternative non-disposal methods, we avoid the creation of methane gas in the disposal process.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Chaz Miller  
Chair, MRN Legislative Committee