



**Bill:** HB 407: Environment – Municipal Recycling Plans- Requirement

**Position:** Oppose

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 407 as it imposes an unnecessary local government mandate that could negatively impact a highly successful and cost-effective program already in place within our City.

The City of Gaithersburg provides a well-established and effective residential recycling program, currently serving up to 13,665 single-family homes with a participation rate exceeding 70%. This program is cost-effective and functions efficiently without the need for additional state mandates. HB 407 introduces requirements that could alter the services and costs of a program that is already working very well.

HB 407 requires that municipal recycling programs achieve a 35% recycling rate based on total waste weight, but this approach presents significant challenges for Gaithersburg:

- The City does not provide recycling services for commercial or multi-family properties. Because our collection is limited to single-family homes, achieving the 35% threshold using only what the City collects would be extremely difficult.
- Montgomery County law already requires all businesses, including those in Gaithersburg, to recycle. HB 407 does not appear to account for jurisdictions like ours where commercial recycling is already mandated by the county.
- It is nearly impossible to determine the City's total waste stream. The City does not collect any solid waste—this is handled by many private trash companies serving all residential and commercial properties. Without an accurate measure of total waste, calculating compliance with the 35% recycling requirement would be infeasible.
- The bill does not clarify what happens if a city cannot meet the 35% requirement. In Gaithersburg, nearly all properties already participate in recycling due to City-provided services or County requirements.

As the largest municipal corporation in Montgomery County, Gaithersburg is singled out by this bill. It is unclear why only the largest city in each county is subject to this mandate while other municipalities are exempt. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose HB 407. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038  
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • [cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov) • [gaitthersburgmd.gov](http://gaitthersburgmd.gov)

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CITY MANAGER  
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