



TESTIMONY FOR HB0042

Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Boyce

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0042 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland has too much trash. We spend money shipping it outside of the state and yet we spend so little money coming up with alternatives.

This bill, if enacted, will provide grants for wasted food reduction and diversion projects such as –

- Organics recycling
- Food waste prevention programs and food waste rescue programs
- Durable food service ware infrastructure
- Farmer and school programs

The grants will be funded by a \$2 surcharge at landfills and incinerators and the funding for grants will be distributed to counties proportional to their population.

This is a self-funding program that will help save the state money by keeping trash out of landfills and incinerators. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.