



Testimony on: HB0931 –Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)
Sponsor: Delegate Stein
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization: Less Plastic Please, Indivisible Howard County & HoCo Climate Action
Submitting: Liz Feighner
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 26, 2025

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We are also a partner of the [Zero Waste Team](#) of [Howard County Sierra Club](#) and a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate. Reducing the production of plastics and creating a zero-waste economy is one of our top concerns. [Indivisible Howard County](#) represents 800+ members and is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). [HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Our organizations support **HB0931** which will revamp the existing program and provide sustainable funding to support local government electronics recycling programs. Only ~8 out of 23 Counties/City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland are able to provide to their residents free (at time of drop off), permanent, year-round acceptance of all types of municipal electronics for recycling, including flat screen and CRT TVs and computer monitors, mainly due to costs to run these programs. This means millions of pounds of televisions, computer monitors and other electronics are being illegally dumped and/or disposed of every year.

This bill would remove the entire financial burden from jurisdictions for their electronics recycling contracts, enable them to fully staff their electronics collection, along with funding fire detection and suppression equipment. Howard County has collected over 14,574,225 lbs. of electronic recycling at a cost of \$1,642,701.73 since 2014.

Electronics pose risks when disposed of in the general waste stream as they contain heavy metals which are toxic to the environment and can be particularly destructive in mixed municipal waste.

Revamping the existing program will save money for local governments when budgets are extremely tight, by relieving the responsibility of electronic recycling on taxpayers while reducing a toxic waste management challenge.

We urge a **favorable report for HB0931**.

Submitted by Liz Feighner

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