



HB 42: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs

House Environment and Transportation Committee

January 29, 2025

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Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland and Washington, D.C. (MD-DC) Chapter of the US Composting Council represents a variety of sectors and is dedicated to advancing composting and compost use in Maryland and D.C. The Chapter supports HB 42 and urges a favorable report.

A major limiting factor for the expansion of food waste reduction and composting in Maryland is cost. States with similar goals to Maryland for diverting food waste from landfills have seen success only when the goals are supported through investment in infrastructure.

Food waste is a significant greenhouse gas producer when landfilled or burned, and food is the single largest component of the waste stream, making up 22 percent of municipal solid waste. Diverting food waste from landfills and incinerators is not only an important step to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and extending the limited capacity of landfills, but it also provides significant co-benefits.

Investment in locally-driven food waste reduction, food rescue, and composting solutions facilitates emissions reductions, decreases the need for long-distance hauling of materials, creates high-quality soil amendments to build healthy soils and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, and supports green jobs and community engagement, particularly in overburdened and underserved communities. These are the outcomes that HB 42 seeks to achieve with a dedicated and reliable funding stream.

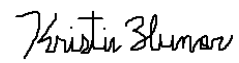
Funding through a modest \$2 per ton surcharge on waste disposed would raise over \$14 million in funding to build Maryland's food waste reduction and composting capacity.

HB 42 promotes the necessary investment and collaborative effort needed to build Maryland's capacity and infrastructure for organics management at all levels. When established, this program would spur new businesses, enable farms

seeking to compost onsite or utilize compost, and will support Maryland's goals to reduce wasted food.

We urge the committee to pass HB 42.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristie Blumer".

Kristie Blumer
President, MD-DC Board