



**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB0042 – Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 29, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0042. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB0042.

Maryland faces a number of challenges with waste disposal, and food waste in particular, presents unique problems and opportunities. Food waste is taking up limited landfill space while also super-charging methane emissions (a potent greenhouse gas). Removing food waste from landfills solves these problems, and creates a valuable soil amendment, i.e., compost.

HB0042 will put these solutions into practice by establishing a nominal \$2/ton surcharge on final waste disposed at landfills and incinerators, which will be deposited into a Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund. The Fund (over \$14 million per year) will support the development of infrastructure, programs, and education for wasted food diversion through the: 1) Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program, 2) On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program, and 3) County Wasted Food Reduction Block Grant Program. The disposal surcharge is added to existing disposal facility tip fees (which presently range from \$55-\$125/ton) only when waste is disposed.

The funding will prioritize projects directly benefitting local communities, particularly overburdened and underserved communities, which produce high-quality soil amendments. In addition, counties will receive reliable annual funding to support and expand wasted food prevention and diversion programs, infrastructure, and education, including staffing costs.

For these reasons, we strongly support HB0042 and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

350MoCo  
Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project  
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
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