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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0042 -

FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0042, Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established

This bill is submitted to recognize that solutions to pollution and food waste that have a positive economic and environmental matters is possible. It will accomplish those goals by establishing the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue. It can fund these efforts through establishing a solid waste disposal surcharge on the final disposal of solid waste in the State.

The data needed to evaluate the success of the efforts is mandated by requiring the Department to report to the General Assembly yearly beginning December 31, 2027, on the grants awarded, and the impact on job creation, producers, and food waste prevention; etc.

Maryland has a chance to be a leader in sustainable agriculture and food waste prevention as well as encouraging promotion of organics minimizing the negative effects of chemical use in agriculture.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0042.