



KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER
County Executive

LAUREN BUCKLER, *Director*
Department of Public Works and Transportation

February 24, 2025

TO: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: HB 0931 Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

Favorable

I am Richard Keller, Waste Prevention and Recycling Manager at the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Bureau of Solid Waste Management. The Bureau manages solid waste and recyclables in Baltimore County, including collection, processing, marketing (for recyclables), and disposal (for solid waste). Our goal is to extend the life of the County's only active landfill, the Eastern Sanitary Landfill. Recycling is a key component in reducing the volume of material going to the landfill, including recycling a wide variety of electronics.

Since 2012, Baltimore County has recycled almost 14.5 million pounds of electronics received at our public collection sites, costing over \$1,000,000 to do so.

The proposed legislation (HB 931) would provide funding for electronics recycling to ease the financial burden on the County, create jobs, and increase our supply of raw materials. The bill will also divert tax revenues for other public sector services, allowing us to expand the program to accept more materials.

This bill could assist the County in providing staff dedicated solely for receiving and packaging all types of electronics. Having adequate staffing will improve workplace safety, especially in stacking and palletizing large, heavy electronics, where workers may be put at risk when staffing is not sufficient. It will also provide our staff with fire safety equipment to prevent and suppress battery fires, which are currently putting them and our facilities at risk.

Baltimore County supports this legislation to help us expand our recycling and worker safety efforts.

We urge a favorable report on HB 931

Thank you for your consideration.

Please contact me at rkeller@baltimorecountymd.gov or 410-887-2791 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Keller