

Testimony on: SB0655– Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program
Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 124, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB0655, Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program.

Electronic waste is composed of dangerous pollutants and toxins and heavy metals. These end up in our soil and in our waterways. I live near Sligo Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia River that flow through a heavily paved urban area with a lot of development. Heavy metals and other pollutants are found in the creek. It is also in a neighborhood park where children play and wade in the water.

Over the decades I have seen, and been part of the growth in electronic purchases, and waste. What do we do with our old phones and computers? It is a question I hear and am asked frequently. There are a few places to drop off some specific types of devices, but it is inadequate or hard to find, so they go in to the trash and eventually in to our already waning land fill space. There is also the loss of precious metals like gold, copper, and aluminum. These are not only costly but their mining and production have large environment costs.

Electronic devices can often be refurbished and reused. They can be donated to schools or made available to people that cannot afford to buy them. My phone and computer are both refurbished and are giving me years of good use. And even those devices that cannot be reused are valuable; most electronic devices are nearly 100 percent recyclable. Despite the desire of many people to recycle their electronic devices the rates are extremely low Maryland, about 15%.

SB0655 moves us forward by putting more responsibility on the producer to make sure their products are recycled. It will encourage recycling by making it easy to drop off devices in numerous and easily accessible places. It will also have an educational component as producers will have incentives to help educate consumers on reasons for recycling. Finally, and also important are the cost savings to taxpayers and local governments to address waste management of these devices.

Programs like this have successfully worked elsewhere and would be a cost effective, environmentally safe, and much welcome program for Maryland.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB0655.