



Testimony on: SB0655– Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Dave Arndt, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0655, Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0655.

Almost everyone has one. That box, drawer or shopping bag in a closet filled with old cell phones, obsolete chargers, broken tablets and defunct MP3 players. It is your personal pile of electronic waste. As the useful life of electronic devices becomes shorter and shorter and the list of electronic gadgets we use becomes longer and longer, these piles are getting bigger. They are an increasingly important environmental issue.

There are numerous reasons why we should recycle these devices and keep electronic waste out of landfills:

1. Electronic devices are composed of toxic substances and heavy metals. Materials such as chromium, cadmium, mercury and lead can leach into the soil and contaminate the air and waterways.
2. Recycling this material will save landfill space.
3. Electronic products have valuable materials such as precious metals like gold, silver and platinum along with copper, aluminum, plastic and glass. Through the recycling process, these materials can be reclaimed. Most electronic devices are nearly 100 percent recyclable.
4. Reclaiming valuable materials through recycling means there will be decreased demand for new raw materials. This will help conserve important natural resources.
5. Using recycled material also will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing or processing new products known as “virgin material.” The more recycled material that is available, the lower the demand for virgin material.
6. Discarded electronic devices can be kept out of the landfill if they are refurbished, reused and donated to a worthy cause.

Despite all these benefits, the rates of recycling of electronic waste in Maryland is still very low, estimated to be about 15%. We need to find a better way. SB0655 puts more responsibility on the producers of these products to make sure their products are recycled. The bill will make it easier for consumers to drop off their devices at more convenient and familiar places. A benefit is that when consumers shop for replacement devices, they can conveniently dispose of their old

or nonfunctioning devices. Producers also will have to help educate consumers on the reasons for recycling electronic waste and education is one of the key drivers for increased recycling of all products.

When producers are responsible, it shifts the financial and operational burden of waste management from taxpayers and local governments to producers. It also has been documented that these programs promote sustainable design, increase recycling rates, and reduce waste. A win-win-win.

Accordingly, we urge this committee to issue a FAVORABLE report for SB0655.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Communications Coalition

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Greater Maryland

ClimateXChange

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

Howard County Indivisible

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Energy Advocates

Maryland Third Act

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

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