



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 655:** Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I want to begin by recognizing the leadership of Senator Malcolm Augustine in sponsoring Senate Bill 655. This critical legislation will help local governments secure the funding and resources needed for a safe, environmentally conscious, and long-term electronic waste management framework.

Over the last decade, the economics of managing electronics recycling programs have been challenging for local governments, including Howard County. Since 2012, Howard County has recycled over 14.5 million pounds of electronics received at our public drop-off site at a cost of over \$1.6 million. These statistics represent Howard County's effort to keep electronic waste out of our landfills. But maintaining or even enhancing these efforts will require the legislative support that HB 992 aims to provide.

The handling of electronic waste at our drop-off locations comes with significant safety hazards. Howard County has already experienced battery-related fires in our electronics public drop-off area and on our curbside trash and recycling collection routes. This bill will provide local governments with thermal imaging, fire detection and 24/7 monitoring technology as well as suppression equipment to catch these events before they become fires and help us safely extinguish them when they do occur.

Unfortunately, electronic waste that is not dropped off for recycling ends up in a landfill. Landfill capacity throughout the state is limited and is slated to run out in 20 years. Funding proposed in this bill will allow local jurisdictions to promote and expand our electronic waste recycling program, thereby diverting waste from landfills.

Finally, there is a significant environmental burden that electronic waste represents, in the form of greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, 852 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> will be generated from electronic waste. This bill will allow for increased funding to facilitate more recycling and reuse.

Howard County respectfully requests the Committee's **favorable report for SB655**.

Thank you,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive