



**February 25, 2026**

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Re: HB848 Public Safety – State Fire Prevention Code – Trash and Recyclable Materials  
SUPPORT**

Maryland Recycling Network members are public and private sectors recyclers and recycling advocates. Our members are county and municipal government sustainability and recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We promote sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through educational programs, advocacy, technical assistance, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We support HB 848

HB 848 strengthens fire code requirements for recyclables and waste materials while also allowing "valet" trash and recycling services to pick up both types of containers when placed in the corridors and exits of apartment buildings. This approach ensures safety while also making it easier for apartment residents to recycle. If their building offers the valet system, they can leave both recyclables and trash in separate containers for collection instead of taking them to the basement or outside to a collection area. This makes recycling more convenient and user-friendly.

We thank Delegate Stein for introducing this bill and urge its speedy passage.

The Maryland Recycling Network is a resource for legislators and others interested in recycling and waste reduction. Contact us at [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), or 301-725-2508, or MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044, if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely

Chaz Miller  
Chair, MRN Legislative Committee