



**SB599: On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
March 30, 2026**

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action urges a favorable report on SB599.

Maryland has commendable goals to reduce food waste and increase organic recycling. These efforts have significant co-benefits, improving food security for our residents, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food rotting in landfills or burning in incinerators, and enables our farmers to diversify their income and reduce climate-polluting synthetic fertilizers. But we know that a major limiting factor for the expansion of infrastructure and programs reducing food waste and recycling organics is cost. Maryland has no dedicated funding streams for reducing and diverting food waste.

Maryland has made great strides to reduce methane emissions from landfills, with more stringent methane regulations on landfills. Controlling the amount of methane from a landfill is great, but another effective strategy is to reduce the amount of methane-producing organic waste from entering the landfill in the first place.

SB599 will establish a grant to support on-farm compost and food waste diversion, providing support for building more infrastructure for sustainable food waste while providing investment on our local farms.

Thank you and we urge a favorable report,

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