

Collect  
Recycle  
Innovate



**National Waste  
& Recycling Association**<sup>SM</sup>

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 18, 2026

House Bill 517 – *Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management – Local Authority*

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

The Maryland chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA-MD) is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. NWRA-MD and its members **oppose** House Bill 517.

House Bill 517 authorizes a local jurisdiction to adopt an ordinance, rule, or regulation to regulate emission standards, ambient air quality standards, or refuse disposal and solid waste management provided that the jurisdiction's actions are at least as stringent and do not conflict with the State standards. Providing the authority for local jurisdictions to adopt their own rules and regulations relative to emissions, ambient air quality standards, refuse disposal and other solid waste management programs could result in conflicting standards across jurisdictions, resulting in the disruption and degradation of efficient and effective refuse collection, processing, recycling, and disposal.

Our members are concerned about the possibility of having multiple standards being created across jurisdictions in Maryland. Many of our members and our facilities are serving customers from various counties. This could result in members having different compliance requirements as they serve customers from one jurisdiction to the next. Many of our members are small businesses and lack the resources to comply with a patchwork of regulations from one county to the next. One example is small family-owned waste-hauling companies, which often have contracts to serve customers in multiple jurisdictions. While these companies are diligent in ensuring compliance with State regulatory requirements for solid waste, it would be unreasonable for them to face differing standards from one jurisdiction to the next. Such dual systems can lead to confusion, costs, and risk for small businesses. For these reasons, we recommend an unfavorable report.

**For more information:**

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