



February 11, 2026

**To: Maryland House Environment & Transportation Committee
Re: HB429 On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs 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 429

The MRN supported legislation creating a composting work group to advise the state on how to improve management of Maryland's organic wastes. We also supported follow-up legislation establishing a task force to aid in writing regulations based on those recommendations. We were active members of both state task forces carrying out that legislation. Maryland now enjoys regulations in place to manage organic wastes.

Food waste is the biggest part of Maryland's waste disposal stream. Marylanders sent 849,756 tons of food waste to disposal in 2024. That's 18.8 percent of the solid waste generated in Maryland that year! (See Table 2-1, page 2-5 of Appendix A of Maryland's 2024 Waste Characterization study). We should be composting or using other methods such as edible food recovery instead! We realize that food waste is uniquely challenging to collect and compost. HB 429 tackles this problem through grants designed to increase organics recycling and compost use, waste food prevention and food rescue. This is a win for Maryland's environment!

We thank Delegate Boyce 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, 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
Maryland Recycling Network