



February 11, 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee

House Bill 429 - On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs

Position: Support

On behalf of Denali.Water.Solutions, I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 429, which establishes the On_Farm.Organics.Diversion.and.Recycling.Grant.Program, the Wasted.Food.Reduction.and.Diversion.Grant.Program. This legislation will significantly strengthen Maryland's commitment to sustainable waste management, nutrient cycling, and water quality protection.

Denali Water Solutions is focused on innovative environmental solutions that improve resource recovery and enhance nutrient and water management. We work with agricultural producers, municipalities, and private companies to implement environmentally-sound practices that reduce waste, improve soil and water quality, and support sustainable local economies.

By funding on-farm organics diversion and composting, HB 429 helps keep organic material out of waste streams and repurpose it back into nutrient-rich soil amendments. This reduces pressure landfills, septic systems and wastewater infrastructure. The bill supports infrastructure development and technical assistance for composting food residuals and organic materials on farms and in communities. This creates practical solutions for handling organic waste at the source instead of relying solely on centralized waste collection or landfill disposal. All helping to strengthen local resilience while improving soils and reducing transportation-related emissions.

The bill's prioritization of job training, labor opportunities, and inclusive hiring practices ensures that environmental sustainability is paired with economic opportunity. In doing so, HB 429 supports communities across Maryland, urban and rural alike, in benefiting from a growing circular economy centered around resource recovery.

This bill advances practical, science-based solutions that align environmental protection with economic opportunity and community resilience. It is a critical step toward healthier soils, cleaner waters, and a more sustainable Maryland.

For these reasons, Denali.Water.Solutions strongly supports HB 429 and encourages the committee to issue a favorable report.