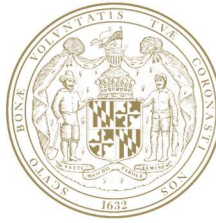


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 429 On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established.**

House Bill 429 would direct grant funding to on-farm composting, wasted food diversion, and recycling projects, giving rural farmers and related businesses access to state resources that support local agriculture and expand sustainable practices. By increasing investment in rural food-waste infrastructure and related businesses, this bill helps strengthen local economies and create new opportunities within Maryland's rural communities.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB429 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair