

**TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION**

HB1070 – Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use

Position: Favorable

March 2, 2022 Public Hearing

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Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned 21 organizations support HB1070 and encourage the committee to pass this bill. We thank Delegate Boyce for bringing this legislation forward to establish funds and grant programs to support waste diversion throughout the state of Maryland.

Maryland's stagnant recycling rate, severely underestimated greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and shrinking landfill capacity, indicate the critical need for investment into waste reduction and diversion. Maryland has numerous policies supporting healthy soils, food waste recovery, recycling, and composting (e.g. HB 1063 on the Maryland Healthy Soils Program and HB 264 on Large Food Waste Generators in 2021) but funding for implementation and support is sorely lacking.

The Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion and On-Farm Composting and Compost Use Bill (HB 1070) will establish significant funding for waste diversion projects and infrastructure including reduction, reuse, repair, composting, recycling, and anti-dumping by incorporating a nominal surcharge on waste disposal.

In addition, the dedicated funding for on-farm composting and compost use would support Maryland farmers, not only with their own farm materials management, soil quality, and farm resilience, but also with contributing to cleaner Maryland watersheds, increased resilience to extreme weather, and stronger Maryland food systems.

This model is successful in numerous other states (such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Carolina) and has had positive impacts on their local communities, economies, and the environment. Why not in Maryland?

We urge the Committee to support HB1070 to advance waste diversion, build necessary infrastructure, and support local governments, small businesses, schools, farmers, and more in their efforts to divert waste from Maryland's polluting landfills and trash incinerators.

Sincerely,

[Blue Water Baltimore](#)
[Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)
[Curtis Bay Community Association](#)
[Echotopia LLC](#)
[Fair Farms Maryland \(Waterkeepers Chesapeake\)](#)
[Greenbelt Climate Action Network](#)
[The Hobbit Restaurant / Go Green OC](#)
[The Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#)
[Kent Island Beach Cleanups](#)
[Maryland Clean Water Action](#)
[Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights](#)
[Maryland Horse Council](#)
[Maryland Legislative Coalition](#)
[MD-DC Compost Council](#)
[MLC - Climate Justice Wing](#)
[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)
[Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm](#)
[Possibility Farm](#)
[Surfrider Foundation, D.C. Chapter](#)
[Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland](#)

Attachment:

ILSR Article, Feb. 2022, [Surcharges On Waste Disposal Fund Composting](#)