

House Environment and Transportation Committee

House Bill 743 – Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force

Position: Support

February 24, 2016

Testimony by Beth LeaMond

My name is Beth LeaMond and I represent Greenbelters for Zero Waste, which is a group of Greenbelt citizens committed to reducing the city's landfill waste. We work with festivals and other public events in Greenbelt to provide collection of recyclable and compostable materials, while educating the public about the need for diverting these materials from the solid waste stream. It is educational efforts such as this that can help the state achieve the ambitious and worthwhile 90% food recovery target established for 2040. However, one of our biggest challenges is finding facilities where compostable materials can be taken. The lack of facilities and infrastructure for composting has been acknowledged in MDE's Zero Waste Plan; this plan also identified organic material recycling as one of eight core priorities. House Bill 743 would create a task force which would provide a viable mechanism to work toward achieving food recovery goals and addressing the need for more composting facilities.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 743. Thank you.

Greenbelters for Zero Waste:

Beth LeaMond
Susan Barnett
Ben Fischler
Mara Hemminger
Luisa Robles
Lore Rosenthal
Tom Taylor