



1114 Shawan Road, Suite 1, Cockeysville, MD 21030  
futureharvestcasa@gmail.com  
www.futureharvestcasa.org  
(410) 549-7878

**To: The House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Regarding: House Bill 171 – Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Study**

**Position: Support with amendments**

**Date: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Future Harvest, a Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (CASA), is in favor of this bill with amendments recently worked out between the concerned stakeholders. Future Harvest CASA is explicitly named in the bill as a study stakeholder and is willing to provide a representative to serve in this role.

This bill aligns with our organizational mission. Future Harvest CASA's aims to provide education, networking, and advocacy to help build a sustainable Chesapeake foodshed, where food flows from farm and fishery to table in ways that strengthen farming and the regional food economy; protect our land, water, and air; and provide healthy, nutritious food that sustains the region's communities and cities. Our mission area covers Maryland, as well as Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC.

We particularly like that HB0171 requires a look at a diverse food waste recovery infrastructure, which could include composting on farms. With our appointment to the bill's stakeholder study group, we plan to represent the interests and needs of our member farmers. We hope that the resulting stakeholder study will include recommendations for policies and programs that would directly assist farmers in participating in the food waste infrastructure being developed.

Thank you,

*Dena Leibman*

Dena Leibman  
Executive Director  
Future Harvest CASA