



Paterson Environmental Holdings Inc.

DBA

Gromax Organic Recycling

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Proposed Amendments to HB 171

An ACT concerning

**Department of the Environment – Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion
and Infrastructure – Study**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of The Environment, in consultation with certain persons, to study, review, explore, identify, and make recommendations regarding certain matters that relate to the diversion of yard waste from disposal facilities, including certain infrastructure; requiring the Department to report its interim and final findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to yard waste food residuals diversion and infrastructure.

Based on the proposed amendments to House Bill 171;

I am in favor of the passage of House Bill 171 along with these amendments. State assistance in help securing funding for viable composting sites proposed by the private sector.

Over the past 6 years after MDE closed all the existing facilities to create new organics regulations, (food waste composting) a great deal of time and money has been devoted to studies while thousands of tons of organics have been sent to landfills. Additional studies only benefits outside consultants that are used to conduct the studies and is a waste of tax payer money. The money allocated should be used to assist the private sector in developing commercial composting plants.

I offer an alternative to the additional studies by the state in this bill regarding the diversion of yard wastes and other organic materials. My name is Harold B. Wiggins, the President/ Founder and CEO of Paterson Environmental Holdings Inc. which in 2011 opened a regional composting facility in Curtis Bay on property owned by the Maryland Port Authority. The facility was a joint venture with Top Soil Etc. We opened in January, 2011 and by June we had secured 250 tons per day under contract of organic materials to be delivered to the facility. At the time of opening, the only permit that was needed was a Natural Wood Waste permit which the joint companies had

secured. Top Soil Etc. also secured a contract with Anne Arundel County to process yard waste that the county needed to have processed. During our time of operation, the facility was financed out of pocket with the intent of expanding the operation at the first year of operation thru conventional financing as banks / lenders would not assist a perceived startup company. Paterson Environment had contracts with Waste Management, Republic Waste, BWI Airport, Maryland Food Court Authority, Whole Foods etc.

Before our anniversary of operating without one complaint for MDE violations, the state closed down all of the operating facilities as they worked on completing the new regulations. Even though I lost \$2.5 million in revenue as a result of the closing, I have been working on developing a regional facility and to raise the funds necessary to finance the project. Currently, I have identified a site in Baltimore City which meets all of the zoning requirements, community support and worked with the MDE group to create the new regulations. I did a presentation to MDE Solid Waste Department of our new facility and was told that what we are proposing is exactly what the agency is looking for, that we exceed the regulations and would be a model for the state.

Our proposed plant would meet the needs of the region. I feel that the state does not need any more studies but needs to support companies such as mine in the form of funding. I am still recovering from the financial loss as a result of the state's actions in closing all the private facilities down. Our facility would be completely enclosed, with holding tanks in the ground to capture all the liquids coming from the incoming waste and from the rain that hits the site. We would also bring jobs to the area employing residents of Baltimore who have no background in operating heavy equipment including those who have been deem undesirable because they have been convicted of crimes. We would provide the new hires with a livable hourly wage, health insurance plan and a future as taxpaying citizens.

Private sector companies such as mine are more that capable of meeting the needs of the state to divert organics from the waste stream helping to meet the state's goal of zero waste.

Over the past 5 years I have met with every agency from the Economic Development agency, Baltimore Development Agency, the SBA and private investors to no avail. In spite of all the no answers that I have received, I am undeterred in my resolve to open a facility here in Maryland.

Paterson Environmental Holdings Inc. is the only Minority Owned Business Enterprise in the composting industry. There many other companies in the collection sector but none who are developing or owners of composting facilities.

I cannot be present at the hearing today so I am asking Brenda Platt to speak for myself and all the other private sector individuals who have the same concerns. Should you desire to speak with me, please feel free to call me at 443-409-1922 or by e-mail at harold633@comcast.net.

Respectfully,
Harold B. Wiggins
President / CEO
Paterson Environmental Holdings Inc.