

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT –
YARD WASTE AND FOOD RESIDUALS
DIVERSION AND INFRASTRUCTURE –
STUDY**

prepared 23RD January 2017

by Jeremy Brosowsky, founder and CEO, Agricity LLC (dba Compost Cab)

On behalf on Agricity LLC, dba Compost Cab, I'm proud to submit this testimony in support of requiring the Department of the Environment to consult with local and national experts to study, review, explore, identify, and make recommendations regarding the diversion and recycling of organic materials in Maryland. We think that sounds like a terrific idea, and hope the Assembly and the Senate will move this effort forward with all due speed.

Agricity was formed in 2010 to develop products and services that help build healthier, more sustainable, more productive cities. Compost Cab, our pioneering home pickup service, was our very first project, and from the beginning, it has existed to do two things: make it easier for people to compost, and make it easier for urban agriculture to thrive. We are a mission-driven organization, and our pursuit of this mission guides our approach to everything we do, including supporting this legislation.

In nearly seven years working on composting efforts in and around Maryland, we've learned that the most successful organics diversion and reduction programs require the cooperation of public, private, and not-for-profit institutions. We've also learned that composting, when directly connected to the community, enables benefits that go beyond the



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environmental benefits of waste diversion, or even waste reduction. It's about food production. Education. Nutrition. Job creation. Taking a mission-driven, community-first approach, we come to a simple conclusion:

All things being equal, the community's resources should benefit the community.

To be sure, any reasonable model for municipal or statewide composting needs to include large-scale facilities. In order to accommodate the needs of the largest waste producers, it's important to have multiple options for high-volume organics recycling. But alongside this capacity, we strongly encourage creating and fostering a distributed, smaller-scale network of composting sites. Doing so in an engaged way – think workshops, field trips, volunteer opportunities, etc. – taps into the communities themselves.

We're confident that this pragmatic, collaborative approach, or some version thereof, will emerge from any study that results from enacting this legislation. Pursuing the study contemplated by the legislation should serve as a significant step forward in Maryland's efforts to meet and exceed its long-term diversion and waste-reduction goals.

Finally, it's worth noting that providing a blueprint for the state's actions around composting over time would create a more predictable operating environment for organizations such as ours. This in turn will make it significantly easier to make the increasingly large investments required to achieve a scalable composting infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. We look forward to the opportunity to be a resource for the state, and for the citizens of Maryland, as we work together to build a healthier, more sustainable community.

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