



Steering Committee

Gary Felton
University of Maryland
Environmental Science &
Technology
College Park, MD

Loree O'Hagan
City of College Park
College Park, MD

Brenda Platt
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Washington, DC

Mike Toole
formerly of
Recycled Green Industries
Woodbine, MD

Annie White
DC Dept. of Public Works, DC

Lisa Williams
Williams Environmental
Services, Inc.
Pasadena, MD

Luisa Robles
Dept. of Public Works
City of Greenbelt, MD

HB 743

Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force February 2016

My name is Mike Toole and I represent the MD - DC Compost Council, an official committee of the US Composting Council.

I am here to testify in favor of and to urge your support of this bill.

The recent closure of the Wilmington Organics composting facility in Wilmington Delaware served to underscore the composting capacity crisis that exists in the Mid-Atlantic region and, in particular, in Maryland. No investment in Maryland composting infrastructure and associated capacity is currently contemplated by industry and diversion options remain essentially non-existent.

The MD-DC Compost Council has advocated for legislative initiatives designed to invite investment in composting infrastructure in Maryland for the past 3 legislative sessions. Because of the diversity of the Maryland stakeholder group, not all of those initiatives gained the broad-based support necessary to ensure successful passage into law after an initial introduction. HB 743 is a reintroduction of HB 0603 from the 2015 session but recognizes the need for broad-based support from all stakeholders and invites participation in a task force by all members of the stakeholder group.

We are confident that a task force co-chaired by the Department of Environment and Department of Commerce and comprised of: environmental groups, compost industry representatives, retailers, restaurants, waste haulers, counties, agriculture, and supermarkets will fully vet the issues that attend the deliverables listed in the bill and **result in findings which provide the right incentives to be a significant stimulus for investment in Maryland business.**

Thank you.