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MAYOR

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**HB589**

February 14, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** House Bill 589– Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 589 ([HB 589](#)).

**House Bill 589 would require** a certain person that generates food residuals to separate the food residuals from other solid waste and ensure that the food residuals are diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system.

This bill supports the implementation of key strategies outlined in the 2018 Food Waste & Recovery Strategy to “Reduce commercial food waste in Baltimore City by 50% by 2040” and the 2019 Sustainability Plan goal to “Create and implement a plan to achieve zero waste by diverting over 90 percent of our discards from landfilling or incineration.”

HB 589 provides the impetus for commercial food industries to intentionally divert their organic waste from Baltimore’s municipal solid waste stream through food waste prevention activities, food recovery to ensure edible foods feed people, and diverting food and other organic materials from our landfill. Collectively, these activities will allow Baltimore to reach its goal of reducing food waste across the city by 2030.

HB 589 would be phased-in between January 2021 and January 2024. This structure of organic diversion requirements would allow commercial food businesses and organic waste generators to adequately plan for organic waste diversion. Based on our analysis, the bill also stands to advance more organics processing infrastructure in the greater Baltimore region.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 589.

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