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HB589 - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 19, 2020
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

I am a member of the Maryland Climate Coalition, as well as the Greenbelt Climate Action Network. I have been involved with the study of compost for about 10 years and am the co-founder of the Greenbelt Neighborhood Compost Project.

I have a great concern about the amount of food waste that is going into the landfill. As you know, organic material counts for as much as 30% of our trash. When it goes into the landfill, it creates methane, which is about 24 times more dangerous a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide.

Food waste is among the biggest contributors to our climate crisis. Currently, there are not enough food waste reduction and recycling opportunities in our state. Large institutions (hotels, universities, hospitals, restaurants, supermarkets, and prisons) are the largest producers of food scraps. The demand for composting facilities is growing, but there just aren't enough places to take the waste.

This bill is the perfect solution. It will incentivize the growth of composting facilities, both public and private. Knowing they will have a steady stream of compostables will assure the feasibility of their investment.

The bill specifies a 30 mile range. This proposal encourages a regional, distributed approach, where the finished compost can be returned to the communities to enrich the soil for landscaping, vegetable gardens, urban farms, and trees.

The time is now.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 0539, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion bill.

Sincerely,

Lore Lyon Rosenthal