



February 19, 2020

TESTIMONY FROM THE FREDERICK COMPOST WORKGROUP

The Frederick Compost Workgroup is a group of volunteers that was organized in 2017 to put on Frederick County's first Compost Summit, and is made up of citizens and businesspeople who are working to encourage collection of organics and compost production within our own borders.

A member of our group, Key City Compost, is now working on developing a compost site and handles a number of residential and commercial accounts, including more than 10 pilot schools, at which we help to teach students about composting and how to deposit the right items in the bin.

We have also worked to support and advocate for county, school system and local policy that removes obstacles and places incentives to increase composting, including an on-farm zoning text amendment that now gives small agriculturally zoned properties the ability to compost on-site.

We enthusiastically support HB589, The Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals legislation submitted by Del. Lorig Charkoudian. This legislation will

- Increase the availability of facilities and locations for acceptance of organics and production of compost by providing financial incentives for new businesses to locate
- Will cause landlords, local governments and property owners to take a look at how waste diversion costs are buried in trash disposal costs. This will happen due to pressure by businesses who want to benefit financially from their composting activities, which will begin a cycle that makes it more feasible for smaller businesses and residents to consider composting due to the financial benefits. This will benefit Frederick County, a fiscally conservative region, to see the financial incentive for composting as well as the environmental benefits.
- Frederick County's waste is transported out of county and out of state, and composting will empower our community to deal with this large portion of our waste (read: resource) stream locally.

Please bring HB589 to the full house for consideration.

Sincerely,

The Frederick Compost Workgroup
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