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## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **Delegate Stein Testimony in Support of HB 1452**

#### **Department of Environment-Office of Recycling-Recycling Market Development**

For many years, China had been a major buyer of recyclables from the U.S. But two years ago, China said that American recycled materials were filled with too much trash, and stopped buying it. Thailand and India too, are placing new restrictions on American recyclables.

This has had a big impact on jurisdictions throughout the country, including Maryland's counties and Baltimore City. While recycling used to generate revenue for counties, now it generates much less money or, worse, costs counties money.

This has affected counties both large and small. In Montgomery County bales of mixed paper used to bring in \$155 per ton, now brings in \$10. Between 2015 and 2018 Carroll County went from receiving \$15 per ton for recyclables to paying \$20 per ton. Prince George's County went from earning a modest \$750,000 on the sales of its recovered paper, cans, bottles and plastic in 2017 to posting losses of nearly \$2.7 million by late 2018. Anne Arundel County received its first-ever recycling charge in 2018.

To make recycling successful in Maryland, we need to create new markets and strengthen existing markets for recyclables. That is what HB 1452 would do. It would require MDE's Office of Recycling to evaluate current markets, make recommendations to improve markets, and target markets that need market development. It would also encourage existing businesses to use more recycled materials, examine funding mechanisms, develop an advertising campaign to attract new recycling businesses, and provide technical support. The goal of the bill is to let the private sector know that "Maryland is Open for Recycling Business."

MDE supports this bill, as does the Maryland Recycling Network and Baltimore County. I urge passage of HB 1452.