



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 1452

Department of the Environment- Office of Recycling- Recycling Market Development

Date: March 4, 2020

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) SUPPORTS HB 1452. This bill would develop markets for recycling materials and recycled products in the State of Maryland.

HB 1452 creates an Office of Recycling in the Department of Environment to develop markets for recycling and reviewing recycling programs in Maryland.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, recycling is a potent strategy for reducing greenhouse gases.¹ Recycling reducing emissions from energy consumption, because goods made from recycled energy require less energy to produce.² Recycling also helps reduce methane emissions from landfills.³ In particular, recycling (including composting) divert organic wastes from landfills, reducing the methane released when these materials decompose.⁴ Finally, recycling paper products can help protect existing trees, sustaining and supporting the ability of existing forests to sequester carbon.⁵

Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change. Climate change has immediate and drastic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay. Warmer climates mean warmer waters, which decreases dissolved oxygen and exacerbates the Bay's fish-killing "dead zones" and contributes to algal blooms. Rising water temperatures stress fish and reduce the populations from the Bay's iconic striped bass to brook trout. Other temperature-sensitive species such as eel grass, a critical habitat plant, are at risk.

By creating a market for source-specific materials and implementing waste reduction strategies, HB 1452 may help Maryland reduce its landfill capacity while encouraging conservation and reducing greenhouse gases.

For these reasons, CBF supports HB 1452 and urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report. For more information, please contact Carmera Thomas, Baltimore Program Manager, at 443.482.2011 or carmerathomas@cbf.org.

¹ What Is the Link Between Solid Waste and Climate Change? US Environmental Protection Agency, Web Archive (last visited March 3, 2020), available at: <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/consERVE/tools/payt/web/html/factfin.html>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

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