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MAYOR

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HB 1538

March 4, 2020

TO: Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 1538 – Environment – Waste Haulers - Reporting Requirement
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairman Barve, Vice-Chairman Stein and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1452.

HB 1538 would require haulers of waste, recycling, or organic waste to submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment a semiannual report with the actual tonnage of waste collected or hauled during the reporting period. The definition of "waste" includes organics and items intended for recycling. The legislation also requires the hauler to provide certain supporting documentation and to retain copies of reports.

This legislation would help gather accurate data on recycling activity occurring within Maryland in order to calculate the State's recycling rate. In addition, it would create a stronger checks and balances for waste haulers, ensuring that the materials collected are properly disposed of. Unfortunately, the illegal dumping of tires, construction debris, and other materials is still a major issue in the State. These reporting requirements would establish a method for confirming how and where materials were brought for disposal or recycling. The overall data gathered on the materials collected, along with the collection and end point locations, would allow the State to map waste flows and have a much greater understanding of the waste processes within the State.

It would also benefit businesses in the waste, recycling, and composting industries by helping them understand the markets for their services.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), counties must provide an annual MRA Tonnage Reporting Survey to the Department of the Environment on recycling

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activity within the county. The Department collects and reports on the amount of waste disposed at Maryland Permitted Solid Waste Acceptance Facilities. However, counties still need to report materials recycled at the permitted acceptance facilities, as well as waste disposed at solid waste acceptance facilities that are not permitted in Maryland. It can be challenging for counties to gather this information, as there is no requirement for the facilities, haulers, or businesses to report their recycling activity. This legislation would assist with gathering that information for counties to report accurately to the State.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1538.