

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Baltimore County Administration

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT ONLY IF AMENDED** – Senate Bill 650 – *Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** Senate Bill 650, **only if the legislation is amended**.

Senate Bill 650 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to convene a workgroup, with a defined membership, to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility that serves Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The Department must issue a report on the Workgroup's findings and recommendations by December 1, 2021. The required report must include *proposals* (1) for the siting of a regional waste disposal facility; (2) for sharing costs associated with establishing a regional waste disposal facility; (3) for developing service networks; (4) that consider modern technology and consolidation needs, as specified; (5) that provide a commitment to phase out incineration; (6) that focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and (7) that advance principles of zero waste.

While MDSWA has no objection to the creation of a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility, the workgroup does include the private waste industry. The private sector is a critical player across all the Counties identified to be part of this workgroup. The private sector provides the vast majority of the collection of both waste and recyclable materials across the identified region. It also owns and operates a number of recycling and other waste management facilities. To that end, MDSWA would request that a representative from the Association be included in the membership of the workgroup. In addition, MDSWA would take issue with the fact that the charge of the workgroup and its required report presumes certain findings before they have been evaluated. The information to be included in the annual report requires "*proposals*" not the "*findings and recommendations*" of the

workgroup. If the Workgroup is to objectively evaluate the establishment of a regional facility, it should not presume there will be proposals to that end but rather findings and recommendations. Along those lines, MDSWA, also, does not support the language which states the report should “provide a commitment to phase out incineration”. Once again, this is reaching a conclusion before the study has been undertaken. The bill should be amended to reflect a report on the findings and recommendations of the Workgroup with the deletion of the provision that requires the phase out of incineration or amending it to evaluate its continued use.

As stated previously, MDSWA appreciates the interest in evaluating the development of a regional facility and with the adoption of its amendments would welcome the opportunity to work with the local jurisdictions to achieve that end. Absent the adoption of the requested amendments, MDSWA is unable to support the legislation.

For more information call:

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