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BILL NO.: **SB 650**

TITLE: Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility

SPONSOR: Senator Klausmeier

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

DATE: February 24, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 650 – Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility. This legislation would require the Maryland Department of the Environment to convene a work group to evaluate regional waste disposal throughout Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County.

Changes in the recycling system, increases in local populations, and unexpected single use items generated from the pandemic has led to an abundance of solid waste in the state needing immediate attention. This is why Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has made passing legislation to solve this issue a priority of his this session. The County’s Eastern Sanitary Landfill is reaching capacity and other regional jurisdictions are finding themselves in the same spot. While there have been attempts at the state and local level to find creative solutions to this problem, there has yet to be a regional approach to take on Maryland’s trash in some of the State’s most populated counties.

Local jurisdictions continue to work together and connect to process regional trash. This legislation seeks to formalize this and provide state resources for regional strategizing. By convening representatives from local jurisdictions, Senate Bill 650 will integrate the plans of municipalities that already are dependent upon each other. Additionally, the workgroup will explore the need for a regional waste disposal facility that will work for all member counties. This legislation is urgently needed.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 650. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.