

Testimony in Support of HB248: Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Rights and Restrictions – Composting

Submitted by: Ava Richardson, Baltimore City Resident

Date: January 22, 2021

Dear Committee:

I write this letter in full support of the Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Rights and Restrictions – Composting bill led by Delegate Emily Shetty.

Urban wasted food systems require our attention, our action and forward thinking policies such as the one presented here today. It has been exciting to see more attention placed on the topic of food waste, but disappointing to realize the lack of policies infrastructures in place to implement activities and program to reduce food waste. From composting to food rescue - these issues have been elevated to national level. Streamlining composting and food scrap collection activities is critical to addressing rampant food waste and its negative environmental impacts.

It is imperative that the State of Maryland address any prohibitive policies relating to composting or food scrap collection activities in residential areas. This bill ensures that homeowners residing in condominiums and/or cooperative living situations can engage in one of the simple, most basic environmental actions available to Marylanders – composting. The bill ensures unnecessary restrictions are not be imposed on residents due the erroneous perceptions some residents may hold in regards to the collection of food scraps which will be composted. I strongly urge the committee to consider this legislation as one of many steps which needs to be taken to improve the management of natural resources in the State of Maryland and the region.

This legislation ensures as many Marylander as possible have access to organic waste collection systems which are easily accessible, streamlined and well-coordinated while avoiding possible contradictions with local home owner association bylaws or guidelines.

Thank you for your time. My colleagues and I look forward to your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Ava