



Date: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Bill: House Bill 164, Department of Environment, Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development

Position: Support

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Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **House Bill 164, Department of Environment, Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development**, which requires the Department to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products and specifies a variety of tasks in support of doing so.

State and local governments are working hard alongside advocates, businesses and individual citizens to improve waste management in a societal system that still generally incentivizes unsustainability. We live in a culture in which we produce and consume overwhelming amounts of material which often has minimal end-of-life value. While the global average is about 1.6 pounds of solid waste generated per person per day<sup>1</sup>, the average U.S. citizen generates nearly 5 pounds per person per day<sup>2</sup>. While source reduction and reduced waste generation overall must remain a priority, recycling is a key part of a multi-pronged approach for more effective sustainable materials management. Among its many benefits, recycling contributes to reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and supports the health of Chesapeake Bay habitats and wildlife.

The National Aquarium recognizes that strong markets for recycled materials are critically important for municipal recycling programs to succeed, as there are substantial costs to collect, sort, process and return recycled materials to market. Those costs have only become more apparent in the face of the ongoing public health crisis caused by the Covid-19 global pandemic. This legislation will assist in identifying existing and potential markets for recycled materials in Maryland and encourage businesses to use more recyclables. Recycling market development also supports reuse, repair, remanufacturing and job growth in a way that benefits the economy and environment.

**We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 164.**

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<sup>1</sup> "What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050" The World Bank 2018. Available at:

[https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends\\_in\\_solid\\_waste\\_management.html](https://datatopics.worldbank.org/what-a-waste/trends_in_solid_waste_management.html)

<sup>2</sup> "National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Waste and Recycling" U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website (accessed January 2021), available at: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>.