

From: Caroline Eader, [Zero Waste for Zero Loss](#)

To: Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 22, 2021 (Hearing date of 2/24/21)

Re: INFORMATIONAL - HB 1094, "Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility."

HB 1094 specifically states its purpose is to "...provide a commitment to phase out incineration; ...focus on recycling, reuse, and composting; and... advance principles of zero waste." In support of this goal, I submit the following information.

Maryland [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13](#), "Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland" adopts a sustainable materials management policy with an emphasis on environmentally and economically sustainable methods to reuse resources and to "empower new partnerships across State and local agencies."¹ Reference to this Executive Order within the bill would be appropriate.

Additionally, Baltimore City has adopted "Less Waste, Better Baltimore", whose mission and goals should be incorporated into the Workgroup's tasks.²

In furtherance of the bill's objectives, professionals with specific skill sets should be named as members of the Workgroup. Composting programs and pay-as-you-throw programs provide large increases in waste diversion rates. Therefore, composting experts, pay-as-you-throw and source reduction experts should be explicitly included as members of the Workgroup. The recycling industry is multi-layered, and therefore 2 – 3 experts in the recycling business should be considered for participation with the Workgroup.

Additionally, the Workgroup should explore the policies and programs to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators, and not only the addition of "disposal facilities."

To clarify the purpose of the Workgroup and its goals to increase diversion, I offer the following definitions to be incorporated into the bill:

WASTE PREVENTION.—The term "waste prevention" includes reuse, recycling, and other methods to reduce the amount of materials disposed of in landfills or incinerated.

SOURCE REDUCTION.—The term "source reduction" —

1 [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland, 2017,](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx)
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Waste-Reduction-and-Resource-Recovery-Executive-Order.aspx>

2 <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/LWBBTask7ReportFINAL4-15-20.pdf>

- (A) includes—
- (i) activities that reduce consumption of products or services that create physical outputs, such as packaging, that is secondary to the intended use of the item being consumed;
 - (ii) measures or techniques that reduce the amount of waste generated during production processes; and
 - (iii) the reduction or elimination of the use of materials which are not able to be recycled without degrading the quality of the material; and
- (B) does not include incineration.

SOURCE SEPARATED.—The term “source separated” —

- (A) means the separation of a stream of recyclable materials at the point of waste creation before the materials are collected and centralized; and
- (B) does not include technologies that sort mixed municipal solid waste into recyclable and non-recyclable materials.

ORGANICS RECYCLING.—The term “organics recycling” means the biological processes by which organics streams are converted to compost which is not harmful to humans, plants, or animals.

REUSE.—The term “reuse” —

- (A) means—
- (i) using a product, packaging, or resource more than once for the same or a new function with little to no processing; or
 - (ii) repairing a product so it can be used longer, sharing or renting it, or selling or donating it to another party; and
- (B) does not include incineration.

RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” —

- (A) means the mechanical processing of material that has reached the end of its current use into material to be used in the production of new products;
- (B) does not include incineration or any other energy recovery process; and
- (C) does not include depolymerization or a similar process.

ZERO-WASTE.—The term “zero-waste” means the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning or otherwise destroying embodied energy, with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

ZERO-WASTE PRACTICE.—The term “zero-waste practice” means a practice used to help achieve zero-waste, including source reduction and waste prevention.

Thank you for considering this information for HB 1094.

Sincerely,

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Zero Waste for Zero Loss
Clean Energy & Zero Waste Policy Support and Implementation