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*County Executive*

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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 164**

**TITLE:**             Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling –  
Recycling Market Development

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Stein

**COMMITTEE:**      Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             January 15, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 164 – Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development. This bill would establish a process for the Office of Recycling to develop market incentives for using products made from recycled materials and promote recycled products in the State.

County Executive Olszewski has championed the fight for a sustainable future and has worked to make Baltimore County a leader in green government. Baltimore County therefore supports efforts on the State level to encourage the use of recycled materials statewide and to lead in developing markets for repurposing waste. Waste is not only an underutilized resource, but when left unchecked can have detrimental effects on the health of the citizens, wildlife, and ecosystems that reside in Baltimore County and throughout the State of Maryland. With the recent increase in single-use disposable items such as masks, plastic gloves, and other disposables, this issue is more pressing and relevant than ever.

The demand for recyclable materials is not only essential for the reuse of waste, but also critical to the success of the recycling business. This legislation would aid in creating such a demand by requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Office of Recycling to develop market strategies that promote the purchasing of materials made from recycled waste. This includes increasing the use of recyclable materials by government entities, developing and suggesting market incentives, and studying the current use of recycled materials in Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 164. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).