

**Bill Title: House Bill 1094, Workgroup to Evaluate the Establishment of a Regional Waste Disposal Facility**

**Committee: Environment & Transportation**

**Date: February 24, 2021**

**Position: Favorable**

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC), a world leader in the finance, design, construction, engineering, and operation of anaerobic digestion facilities. With more than 220 anaerobic digestors built throughout the world, our expert team of engineers, biologists, chemists, agronomists, designers and marketing experts has over 20 years' experience in the finance, design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support with insured and guaranteed operation of each plant. We are proud to call Howard County and Maryland our US home.

This legislation requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to convene a workgroup to evaluate the establishment of a regional waste disposal facility to serve Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. The workgroup must include six representatives of local government, one representative each from Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County, one representative from the Maryland Environmental Services and one representative of the waste diversion industry.

Bioenergy Devco supports the intent of House Bill 1094 and is encouraged that a representative from the waste diversion industry will serve on the workgroup. Any plan to establish a regional waste disposal facility – amongst six jurisdictions - must include waste diversion as a priority.

Take food waste as an example. The Maryland Department of the Environment estimates that Maryland food manufacturers and processors produce up to 998,630 tons of excess food waste per year. Most reports suggest that between 30%-40% of food is wasted along the supply chain, from processing through in-home and dining-out consumption. Only 5% of food waste is currently diverted to compost or anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities. As a result, food waste is typically the first or second largest component of the municipal solid waste stream. Excess organic waste is typically disposed of through unsustainable means such as incineration, crowded

landfills, or worst of all, left to pollute local communities. Disruption in the supply chain and related food waste disposal challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for robust organics recycling infrastructure.

Organics recycling facilities in the form of anaerobic digesters and compost add capacity that enables these jurisdictions to manage excess organics in a way that supports the environment and business, allowing municipalities to reduce the use of greenhouse gas emissions while reaching zero waste and clean energy goals.

Passage of House Bill 1094, in concert with approving House Bill 264, Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, will play a critical role in reducing unsustainable means of disposal in the Northeast Maryland region, and set a path towards achieving broader zero waste goals across the State.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on House Bill 1094**.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Greenfield at 410.446.1992