



Officers

President

Brian Fleury
WeCare/Denali

Past President

Patrick Geraty
St. Louis Composting

Vice President

Pierce Louis
Dirt Hugger

Treasurer

Russell Faldik
New Earth Compost

Secretary

Jennifer Trent
Iowa Waste Reduction Center
University of Northern Iowa

Board of Directors

Eileen Banyra

Community Compost Company

Ryan Cooper

Rubicon

Meredith Danberg-Ficarelli

Common Ground Compost

Jeff Dannis

Howard County MD

Joe DiNorscia

Laurel Valley Soils

Samantha Fleischer

Waste Connections

Tim Goodman

NatureWorks

Bob Schanz

Barnes Nursery

Melissa Tashjian

Compost Crusaders

Bob Yost

A-1 Organics

Executive Director

Frank Franciosi

January 22, 2020

State of Maryland General Assembly

Environment and Transportation Committee

Room 251

House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for HB0248 Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Rights and Restrictions - Composting

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the US Composting Council and its local chapter, the MD-DC Composting Committee, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for HB 0248, a bill that would prohibit rules restricting composting or collection services.

Similar to recent legislation regarding solar panels, this bill would prohibit homeowner associations from restricting composting on private property or condominiums from prohibiting the use of common space by residents for compostable collection services.

The USEPA estimates 25% of the wastes generated in the United States are food residuals. Maryland follows this national trend as demonstrated by Howard County where 23% of its residential waste stream is food residuals and other compostable products. This bill would benefit Maryland by encouraging the better management of its resources within the state and region, as well as providing jobs in a growing sector. Expanding composting and local compost use could support almost 1,400 new full-time jobs in Maryland, according to a 2013 study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Supporting compost collection and processing would support both new and existing compost facilities, but also support Maryland businesses that use compost for soil erosion control, stormwater management, green infrastructure, and other purposes.

Reducing food waste is a key component of the Goals and Measurement Recommendations from MDE associated with the Governor's E.O. 01.01.2017.13 *Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland*. These goals recommend reducing food waste by 60% within the next 14 years. There are estimated millions of tons of food scrap generated in Maryland each year. This is an enormous task that will not happen on its own. This piece of legislation may help Maryland meet those goals.

The US Composting Council is a trade group comprised of compost manufacturers, advocates and affiliated businesses associated with the composting industry. This bill would directly impact our members involved with the collection and transport of compostable materials primarily food scrap. Indirectly, our members would be some of the food waste recyclers charged with processing material collected. This bill will also prevent the discouragement of backyard composting by homeowner associations. The US Composting Council supports backyard composting even though it does not benefit our manufacturers or haulers because we advocates of compost. We believe that more compost use in the US and Maryland is good for us all. Compost is a soil amendment that has a wide range of benefits, including improving soil health, protecting against water pollution, limiting drought impacts, and assisting in soil remediation. It is also increasingly recognized for its climate protection benefits as it helps soils store carbon and reduce methane emissions from landfills.

The US Composting Council and its many members in the Maryland-DC Chapter are pleased to support the passage of HB 0248 and will be happy to work with friends and allies to assist in its passage and implementation.

Sincerely,



Frank Franciosi-Executive Director