

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

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Date: January 15, 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.

House Bill 164 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Office of Recycling to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the State, as specified. The bill establishes various requirements for the office, including expanded reporting requirements, and requires the office to coordinate its activities with the Department of Commerce (Commerce), the Department of General Services (DGS), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Environmental Services (MES), the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, local governments, and private organizations.

BDC's activity in the construction and operation of an anaerobic digester in Jessup has afforded it the opportunity to interface with a number of State and local agencies. As an organic recycling facility, an anaerobic digester recycles residual organics once destined for incineration or already crowded landfills. This process creates renewable natural gas and a soil amendment that support the growth of healthy living soils. Much of our efforts involve educating stakeholders about anaerobic digestion and the importance of the industry. For instance, estimates based on a [recent study](#) led by U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture suggest that that if the United States were to triple its biomass production, we could potentially generate 1.1 million direct jobs and \$260 billion in direct revenue. A resilient bioenergy industry will provide a variety of jobs across several sectors, including scientific research, agriculture, engineering, construction, plant operations, and sales.

We are hopeful that BDC will be able to engage with the Office of Recycling in its efforts provide important education, a comprehensive understanding of the programs, tools, training guides, and technologies available to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the State.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on House Bill 164**.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Greenfield at 410.446.1992