

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General

ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General



WILLIAM D. GRUHN
Chief
Consumer Protection Division

Writer's Fax No.

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

Writer's Direct Dial No.

410-576-7942
kstraughn@oag.state.md.us
Fax: 410-576-7040

March 23, 2021

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn
Consumer Protection Division

Re: House Bill 248 – Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Rights and Restrictions - Composting (SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony in support of House Bill 248 submitted by Delegate Emily Shetty. This bill renders provisions of a governing document of a homeowners or condominium association void and unenforceable if they prohibit or unreasonably restrict the composting of organic material for personal or household use or if they unreasonably restrict or prohibit a unit owner from contracting with a private entity to collect organic waste for composting at a composting facility.

Composting is an environmentally-friendly way to dispose of organic waste and it helps to reduce garbage in county landfills. It improves soil fertility and health, saves water, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels. Also, composting helps reduce greenhouse gases and therefore may have benefits for human health. It is in the public interest to allow individuals to compost without being unreasonably restricted.

For these reasons, we ask that the Judicial Proceedings Committee return a favorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable Emily Shetty
Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee