



January 25, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman
Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: Senate Bill 229 – Environment – On-Farm Composting Facilities – Permit Exemption

Position: **Informational**

Chairman Pinsky & Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) to provide information regarding on-farm composting. Senate Bill 229 – Environment – On-Farm Composting Facilities – Permit Exemption, requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish an exemption from permitting for on-farm composting sites that meet all necessary regulations and use less than 40,000 sq. ft.

MASCD, incorporated in 1956, promotes practical and effective soil, water, and natural resource related programs to all Marylanders. Through individual conservation districts MASCD provides leadership, education, cooperation, and local direction, on a voluntary basis, promoting these initiatives. MASCD is an advocate for the responsible practice of composting throughout our urban and rural landscapes because it reduces carbon emissions and provides a nutrient rich conditioner to our soils that improve crop yields. Through a coordinated approach, on-farm composting facilities can assist in building a more sustainable food system throughout Maryland and can improve the soil quality on our farms.

Thank you for your kind consideration and attention to this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Nelson, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts