



House Bill 124

Environment – Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Date: March 23, 2017

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 124 as amended. The bill addresses important regulatory needs for recycling facilities.

As amended, HB 124 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to adopt regulations governing recycling facilities, in consultation with MACo and other key stakeholders. As materials recovery facilities (MRFs) sort and process recyclables collected through the single stream process, they are handling increasing amounts of what is currently defined as non-recyclable “solid waste.”

Under current law, this could trigger the need for MRFs to apply for a solid waste disposal permit – an expensive and cumbersome requirement that was never intended to apply to them. HB 124 would allow MDE to adopt regulations to require recycling facilities like MRFs to meet reasonable public safety and health requirements while avoiding the need to apply for a solid waste permit.

The bill’s definition of “recycling facility” was amended to exclude residential recycling drop-off facilities. These facilities simply serve as collection points for recyclable materials and do not actually handle or process materials beyond collecting and shipping them to an MRF. Drop-off facilities would not be treated as recycling facilities under the bill’s definition and they would be excluded from the bill’s regulatory provisions.

HB 124 will allow MDE to make regulatory changes to protect recycling facilities from potentially onerous permitting requirements in consultation with appropriate stakeholders. Accordingly, MACo would urge the Committee to give HB 124 a **FAVORABLE** report.