



## House Bill 603

### *Yard Waste and Food Residual Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

Date: March 31, 2015

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 603 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. While the bill (after substantial House amendments) would undertake a needed study of the infrastructure and policy challenges posed by composting, it does not provide for county-specific representation.

The bill establishes a Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force that will study and recommend ways to increase Maryland's composting rates and infrastructure. Among the specific issues the Task Force will consider is whether a county solid waste management plan should require an organic materials recycling program and address facility infrastructure needs for organic materials.

As counties are primarily responsible for operating residential recycling programs in Maryland, new composting requirements would have a significant operational and fiscal effect on county governments. However, despite the role counties play in recycling, the bill does not provide for a county-specific member. In response, MACo is proposing an amendment to add a county representative chosen by MACo.

HB 603 will examine many of the substantial challenges that must be addressed before large scale composting can become practical in Maryland. Given the important role counties have in managing recycling programs and the considerable effect new composting policies will have on them, MACo believes it is reasonable to add a county-specific representative to the Task Force. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to adopt a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB 603.

## MACo Proposed Amendments to HB 603

*(Prepared By MACo 2015-03-31)*

Explanation: The amendment would add three additional members to the Task Force from the Maryland Association of Counties, Maryland Municipal League (MML), and the Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association. All three organizations represent constituencies that are key stakeholders in establishing a viable composting program in Maryland.

*(Note: While MACo's testimony only advocates for the addition of a county representative, both MML and the Association have also requested a specific representative and MACo included all three organizations in its amendment at the request of the bill sponsor.)*

On page 3, in line 6, strike "and" and substitute:

“(14) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(15) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

(16) one representative of the Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association;  
and”;

and in line 7, strike “(14)” and substitute “(17)”.