



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 99

Department of the Environment – Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure - Study

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2017

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

Chesapeake Bay Foundation urges a favorable report from the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee on SB 99

COMMENTS

The study outlined in SB 99 continues to advance Maryland's adoption of the Zero Waste Policy by determining the current organic waste diversion infrastructure, including physical facilities, transportation logistics and the regulatory structures of other states that have already successfully made this transition. The benefits of a robust organics diversion program include extending landfill capacity over time, reducing methane emissions from landfills, generating useful energy from waste materials in a way that does not harm air quality for Maryland's most vulnerable residents and providing a feedstock of organic material that supports better composting of excess manure and bedding from our agriculture sector.

All of these benefits combine to improve water quality through the reduction of organic nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the bay directly and reduced trash in places that are limited by local restrictions on trash loading such as Baltimore City and the Anacostia watershed.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommends a favorable report on Senate Bill 99 from the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. Please contact Doug Myers at 443-482-2168 with any questions.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 110,000 members, including over 45,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.