



**February 14, 2023**

**To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**Re: SB447 Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup**

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

Our members are county and municipal government recycling and organics materials managers, private sector companies engaged in recycling and organics materials management, and citizens who support recycling and organics materials management. We support both composting and anaerobic technologies to manage food and yard waste. We have a long history of supporting food waste recovery legislation in Maryland including HB 264, the Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residual bill that was enacted into law in 2021. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling and organics materials management in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We support SB 447. Anaerobic digestion is an important tool in turning organic "waste" materials into useful products. The Work Group established by this bill, with its focus on increasing the use of digestate created at anaerobic digestion facilities, will help create a solid foundation for organics material management in Maryland. This Work Group will build upon the accomplishments of the 2021 Act. We look forward to passage of this bill.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Peter M. Houstle  
Executive Director