



**February 16, 2021**

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Re: HB 264 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals**

**To: Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Re: SB 483 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals**

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.

The Maryland Recycling Network supports HB 264 and SB 483, Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals. We believe this bill takes a positive step toward a more comprehensive approach to the management of food residuals while recognizing the limitations that currently exist due to the shortage of local processing facilities. We also hope this initiative will encourage the development of more processing capacity throughout the state and thus ensure that eventually all food residuals can be diverted from the waste stream.

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".

Peter M. Houstle  
Executive Director

**Maryland Recycling Network**

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