



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Shari T. Wilson  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary

April 8, 2010

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chairman  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Re: House Bill 982 – Solid Waste Management - Recycling and Source Reduction - Study

Dear Chairman Conway:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or “the Department”) Land Management Administration has reviewed House Bill 982, entitled *Solid Waste Management – Recycling and Source Reduction - Study*, and we would like to express our support for the overall objective of recycling and the proposed study.

The Department is supportive of many concepts that would result in reduced disposal and increased recycling. Waste diversion and recycling save energy, reduce greenhouse gasses and other pollutants generated in the manufacturing process and at landfills, save natural resources, and reduce the amount of waste disposed. Even in times of lowered market returns on recyclables, there are avoided disposal costs associated with recycling.

By requiring the Department to conduct a study, in consultation with stakeholders, to evaluate solid waste management processes that reduce the solid waste stream through recycling and source reduction, the Department will be able to obtain valuable input and obtain information to assist with making decisions regarding expansion of recycling in nonresidential markets, research and assess the feasibility of creating commodity-specific recycling targets, and seek long-term funding for solid waste and recycling management Statewide. With the current status of State and local budgets and the need to be mindful of the impacts of our solid waste and recycling activities on the environment, it is critical that these issues be carefully reviewed and recommendations for solutions be prudently and economically developed and implemented.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 982 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-537-3304 or by e-mail at [htablada@mde.state.md.us](mailto:htablada@mde.state.md.us) if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Horacio Tablada, Director  
Land Management Administration

cc: The Honorable Doyle L. Niemann  
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary  
Heather Barthel, Director of Legislation and Policy  
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison/Environmental Justice Coordinator