

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



April 24, 2017

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chairman Fisette:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to voice our objection to the \$66 annual Recycling System Compliance and Inspection fee that the County has imposed on all business locations.

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization of approximately 700 businesses and organizations whose mission is to strengthen businesses and the economic environment for those who work, live and do business in Arlington.

The Arlington Chamber strongly supports sustainability efforts and initiatives, including recognizing the importance of recycling. We have a highly active Sustainability (formerly called Green Business) Committee, and were proud to actively participate on the Community Energy Plan under your leadership, as well as champion the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program at the state level. While we support the County's value of environmental sustainability, the execution of this specific item misses the mark.

We have heard numerous complaints from our membership about this new fee and the way in which it is being implemented. As Arlington works to combat our commercial vacancy rate, additional fees are yet another unnecessary burden on those who choose to locate their business or nonprofit organization in our County.

Arlington has historically strived to encourage and incentivize recycling and other sustainability tools, not force and fine citizens or businesses for complying with recycling policies. We are also aware that some of our members have questioned the legality of the inspection, as well as the fine. The Arlington Chamber also would like to bring your attention to concerns expressed by individual members that tenants should not be considered responsible parties in this matter under the Arlington County Code.

We support the Zero Waste goal the County has adopted, but because this is a County-wide priority, we feel the County should find a way to pay for this initiative, rather than foisting off the cost onto the business community. The Arlington

Chamber officially requests that the County remove the burdensome Recycling System Compliance and Inspection and find an alternative method or source of funding to accomplish this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members: Katie Cristol, Libby Garvey, John Vihstadt, and Christian Dorsey; Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz; Department of Environmental Services Director Greg Emanuel