



June 14, 2024

Chair Libby Garvey
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Garvey,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the Solid Waste Management Plan and Zero Waste Plan and appreciates the focus on incentives and educational opportunities as means to collectively reduce the solid waste output of Arlington, especially in the short-term phase of the Plan. We ask that the County Board amend the medium-term phase of the Plan to focus on incentives, as opposed to mandates, in a manner similar to that in the short-term phase.

The Arlington Chamber appreciates having been included in the drafting of this Management Plan, and for having the opportunity for ongoing participation in the conversations surrounding the Plan. The Chamber supports the focus on incentives and education throughout the Plan, particularly in the short-term phase of the Plan, defined as 2024 to 2029.

In the medium term of the Plan, defined as from 2029 to 2034, there is a proposed initiative for comprehensive organics management for waste from multifamily residential and commercial buildings. This initiative would include requirements and a compliance program. Incentives, not mandates, are the best method for achieving public policy goals, particularly on issues that concern businesses. A more incentives-based program would be an effective way to work with businesses, in this case owners of multi-family residential and commercial buildings, in achieving the shared goals of reducing the volume of waste going into landfills. Owners of these buildings are often limited in how much they can enforce action by the users and tenants of their buildings, particularly in cases like the disposal of solid waste.

Providing robust incentives for multi-family residential and commercial buildings to divert organic waste, coupled with education and existing incentives from the short-term period, would better achieve the goals of the Plan. As a result, we request the County Board to amend that portion of the Plan to be more in line with the proposals in the short-term phase.

We request that the Solid Waste Management Plan and Zero Waste Plan be adopted by the County Board, with this specific amendment. We thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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: Vice-Chair Takis Karantonis; Arlington County Board Members Maureen Coffey, Susan Cunningham, and Matt De Ferranti; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Douglas Krietemeyer, Solid Waste Bureau.

