



<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner 	Health Department  AGENCY REPORT	
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	Subject: Position:	CC #19-0137R FAVORABLE		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

May 7, 2019

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review City Council Bill #19-0137R, entitled “Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Recycling Program.” This legislation calls upon officials from several City agencies to discuss Baltimore City’s recycling program and its progress.

BCHD is supportive of efforts to increase recycling throughout the City. By recommending the adoption of the Office of Sustainability’s 2019 Sustainability Plan (Council Bill #19-0332), BCHD committed itself to environmental equity and endorsing a zero waste strategy. In consideration of a citywide zero waste strategy, BCHD strongly supported an expanded polystyrene foam ban (also known as “Styrofoam”) as the recycling and reuse of this product is very difficult.

More recently, with BCHD’s full support, the City passed the Clean Air Act (Council Bill #18-0306) which would have our agency cite solid waste incinerators for emitting an excessive amount of pollutants into the air. Another means of curbing solid waste incinerator emissions would be to divert a larger amount of waste toward recycling and composting. The issues presented by solid waste are numerous, with climate change being the most prominent. Climate change, in and of itself, poses a number of health concerns including weather-related disasters, disruptions to our food supply, the exacerbation of respiratory illnesses, and the spread of insect-borne diseases.

For the foregoing reasons, BCHD supports a hearing focused on the City’s recycling efforts and urges a **favorable** report on Council Bill #19-0137R.