



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County

Good Evening Council Members,

My name is Ryan Powers; I'm from Glenwood speaking on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association. We are in support of CR186-2025 with the following amendments:

- 1) Change Pay As You Throw (PAYT) to Save As You Throw (SAYT). If the study is meant to save Howard County and residents money, the title should reflect this. Residents don't want to "pay", they want to know they can "save".
- 2) This program should be voluntary. Residents should be able to see the savings generated and not feel as if this is a tax increase.
- 3) Ensure a minimum price for this study. The fiscal note for this resolution states a price tag of approximately \$30,000.
- 4) Consider forming a resident task force or committee for buy-in to this project. Although the study is relatively inexpensive, Pay As You Throw programs will require a large amount of initial startup costs. HCCA does not favor a top down study where the results are given to us with little to no time for residents to discuss the merits and concerns of this program. There are privacy issues, enforcement issues, and costs to vulnerable populations that a group of residents will be better able to point out. We also don't believe large families should be essentially penalized if implemented and that this should be taken into account.

Although we have these recommendations, **a Pay As You Throw program is worth studying**. These programs are expected to reduce Montgomery County's solid waste by 10% and on average around the world have resulted in 44% less waste going to landfills. Solid Waste management costs are only going to go up and recycling tends to cost less. This is a good opportunity to help Howard County keep costs down, possibly reduce costs on the individual taxpayer, and of course, most importantly, help the environment.

The HCCA wants to thank Council Member Rigby's office for their prompt response to our initial questions on CR186-2025.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan Powers, HCCA Board member