

My name is Clara Becker, I have been living in Montgomery county my entire life, and I want to voice my support for the expedited bill 15-25, which will establish a new organic recycling facility in the Dickerson area.

I wanted to highlight just how much unwavering support the community has for this project. I work for a nonprofit that helps schools around Montgomery County start composting programs, and I'm here to tell you that the biggest supporters of this project are our kids. When I present at a school, I take the kids outside to the garden to learn about all the worms and little bugs and plants, and then something amazing happens. Their faces light up with these smiles and you just know you're doing something right. These kids are engaged, curious, and they love being a part of something, especially when they know they are helping the earth. I see young leaders emerging from our composting programs. The kids take ownership of their task and they follow through, ensuring that all their peers know just how important it is to reduce our waste and keep the trash out of the incinerator.

I think it is so important that we teach young kids about the beauty of nature and allow them to do their part, no matter how small, to fight for the cleaner, better future that they want and deserve. And their impact is not small. We managed to collect over 20,000 pounds of food waste from composting programs we've started in schools just since 2024, and this number will only keep growing.

The community is engaged, excited, and eager to reduce waste. The last piece of the puzzle is this bill. Providing a new composting facility will support composting, help build a more climate friendly community, and empower countless young advocates to protect the earth that we all love.

Thank you for your time.