



**SB222 – Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility**

**Testimony before House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**March 29, 2023**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to **support with amendments SB222**, for extended producer responsibility for packaging materials. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Augustine and Delegate Love in sponsoring this bill.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that packaging is the single largest component of municipal solid waste, at 28.1% in 2018<sup>1</sup>. To address our problems with managing solid waste, it is necessary that Maryland improve its handling of packaging.

An Extended Producer Responsibility bill for packaging is desperately needed to create incentives for better packaging choices by producers, who are best positioned to understand the options and the associated environmental, health, and financial costs of disposal. Producers must make socially responsible choices and not rely upon local governments and consumers to deal with the costs and consequences of the packaging.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**

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1 <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/guide-facts-and-figures-report-about#Products>