



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

Senate Bill 222

Environment - Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility

Position: Support
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 29, 2023
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 222.

MDE is supportive of initiatives that will fund and improve local recycling systems and engage producers in the sustainable management of their products. Extended producer responsibility legislation aligns with MDE's policy of encouraging the development of a circular economy for recyclable materials by increasing the amount of materials collected and recycled, while creating new markets by requiring producers to use a certain percentage of recycled content in new products. Both Maine and Oregon passed legislation in 2021 that required producers of packaging to implement producer responsibility programs and to achieve performance goals aimed at reducing, reusing, and recycling these products.

MDE looks forward to the opportunity to implement a producer responsibility program in the state of Maryland. However, as seen in other smaller states, producer responsibility programs take a lot of resources to stand up and maintain. In order to effectively manage this program, MDE will need additional staff, in addition to the revenue collected under this bill, to successfully implement this bill.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 222.