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BILL NO.: SB 222

TITLE: Environment - Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 29, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 222 – Environment - Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility. This legislation would establish a system that places the logistical and financial responsibility of recycling packaging material on the producers of the materials.

Managing waste is an essential service of government that impacts the daily lives of all Maryland residents. More residents than ever are being mindful of where they discard plastics, resulting in an abundance of recyclable material to be managed and processed by County government. When producers package goods in materials double the size of the product or send orders in multiple boxes, it is local authorities that take on the economic burden of processing the resulting abundance of materials.

Senate Bill 222 will aid local authorities by setting up a system to shift the responsibility of waste management onto the producers of packaging materials. This system will require that large multistore companies have an approved produce responsibility plan in order to sell or distribute packing material in the state. This plan requires that industries make efforts to reduce the waste created by packaging and sets up a system for local governments to be reimbursed for the recycling of such materials. This legislation aligns with Baltimore County's concerted effort to innovate and sustainably manage the growing burden of solid waste.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 222. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.