



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB168 – Environment – Plastic Products – Post consumer Recycled Content Program
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 7, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB168. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB168.

Packaging is 28% of Maryland’s waste and 40% is plastic. Nearly 3 billion PET and more than 176 million HDPE plastic beverage containers were sold in Maryland in 2019 and fewer than a quarter were actually recycled and made into new products. Increasing the requirement for post-consumer recycled content will reduce new plastic container production and strengthen the market for recycled content. Substituting new PET with recycled PET would reduce the amount of fossil fuels needed and could lower the energy requirements and resulting pollution as much as 75%. Maryland should follow the lead of other states like New Jersey, California, Connecticut, and Washington in requiring more post-consumer recycled content in plastic containers.

HB168 will accomplish this by establishing the Post-consumer Recycled Content Program (Program) in the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) Office of Recycling. Producers selling plastic containers in Maryland will be required to increase post-consumer recycled content for plastic beverage containers to 50% by 2033; for rigid plastic containers to store or package food to 40% by 2033; and for rigid plastic containers for personal care and household cleaners to 35% by 2035. The bill also requires producers of containers sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the State to register with MDE, pay an annual fee to cover Program costs, and report the post-consumer recycled content of their container brands annually. Third-party certification of post-consumer recycled content by an independent certifying body would be required and penalties for missing the target. The Program must be evaluated after five years.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing strongly supports HB156 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
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