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OZWF
OUR ZERO WASTE FUTURE

HB 168 Environment – Plastic Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Date: February 05, 2024

Position: Support

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We enthusiastically support the goal of increasing post-consumer content in the three types of items: plastic beverage containers up to 2 gallons in size, rigid plastic containers used to package or store food and plastic containers used for household cleaning products or personal care. HB 168 sets post-consumer content requirements for each of the three items ranging from 15% to 50% by dates ranging from 2026 through 2033.

Plastic production continues to grow. In addition to doubling of production over the past two decades, projections forecast production to triple by 2050. Packaging is 28% of our waste and 40% of that is plastic.¹²

¹ Containers and packaging make up a major portion of municipal solid waste (MSW), amounting to 82.2 million tons of generation in 2018 (28.1 percent of total generation). Packaging is the product used to wrap or protect goods, including food, beverages, medications and cosmetic products. <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/containers-and-packaging-product-specific>

² Global plastic waste generation more than doubled from 2000 to 2019 to 353 million tonnes. Nearly two-thirds of plastic waste comes from plastics with lifetimes of under five years, with 40% coming from packaging, 12% from

Increasing the requirement for post-consumer content in goods will strengthen the market for recycled content. This bill is consistent with approaches in other states such as New Jersey, California, Oregon and Washington.

This bill also dovetails nicely with the effort enacted through legislation last year, and now underway, to assess and develop Maryland's approach for implementing extended producer responsibility for packaging – a program which would reduce the volume and increase the recyclability of packaging materials. That approach would typically include the types of containers covered by this bill

Strengthening use of recycled content instills greater consumer confidence, builds trust in recycling programs and creates demand for recycled plastic – all critical steps toward reducing trash and litter. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Delegate Terrasa on these issues.

Contact: Shari Willson, Interim Executive Director (shari@trashfreemaryland.org)

Anacostia Riverkeeper

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Plastic Free Queen Anne's County

Rock Creek Conservancy

Safe Skies Maryland

Trash Free Maryland

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consumer goods and 11% from clothing and textiles.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm>