



american cleaning institute®

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Chairman Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland State House of Delegates

Re: Testimony from the American Cleaning Institute on HB 168 – Unfavorable

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 168 which is being heard before your committee. The American Cleaning Institute (ACI) – the trade association representing the entire supply chain for the detergent and cleaning product industry – remains committed to eliminating plastic waste from cleaning products by 2040. A major contributing factor to this goal is the utilization and inclusion of post-consumer recycled content in the packaging of our members' products. While our industry is supportive of shifting the market away from the continued use of virgin resins, we stress the importance of proper packaging for the safe and effective use of our members' products.

We appreciate that the Legislature has considered a number of proposals to address packaging waste in Maryland in recent sessions. We were happy to be noted as favorable with amendments on HB 284 from last session, which established an extended producer responsibility (EPR) needs assessment. This assessment, and related EPR proposals, will lead to more comprehensive programs to address packaging waste.

Therefore, we do not believe that HB 168 is necessary or is the policy solution that is needed at the moment. There is already extremely high demand for recycled content which is directing this material to its highest and best use. Establishing rates and dates for recycled content in packaging should be backed by scientific data supporting these values and be backed by investments to improve the supply of recycled content – data that will be gathered in the on-going needs assessment. For those reasons, ACI is opposed to this bill.

We would like to reiterate that ACI members support efforts to reduce packaging waste. We hope the Legislature will take more time to contemplate ACI input on this bill. ACI looks forward to providing necessary input regarding the performance of our products and packaging to achieve desired policy goals.

Sincerely,

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