



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**HB 168 - Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program**

**POSITION: Support**

**By: Linda T. Kohn, President**

**Date: February 7, 2024**

Since the emergence of the environment movement in the 1970's, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League believes that implementing comprehensive recycling frameworks is critical for advancing these goals and mitigating climate change.

**The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports HB 168**, which would increase the percentage of post-consumer recycled content required in certain plastic products sold or distributed in Maryland. **HB 168** would reduce the environmental impact of plastic product production, reduce plastic waste, and help Maryland meet its climate targets. This legislation would also promote new economic opportunities by encouraging the growth of Maryland's recycled content market.

Plastic products are made using fossil fuels - which have proven to be a leading driver of the global climate crisis. Manufacturing virgin plastic produces significant greenhouse gas emissions, and requires considerable amounts of energy. Using recycled content when manufacturing plastic products requires substantially less energy, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by lessening virgin plastic generation. By increasing the requirements for recycled content in plastic products, **HB 168** reduces the demand for virgin plastic, and in turn reduces associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Maryland has already established targets to reduce GHG emissions and reach net zero by 2045, and **HB 168** will help the state achieve these goals.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **strongly urges a favorable report on HB 168.**