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Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 901 – Environment - Packaging and Paper Products - Producer Responsibility Plans

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) strongly supports SB 901, which seeks to implement an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program for product packaging and beverages in the State. This legislation, which builds on the framework established by SB 222 (Chapter 465, Acts of 2023), represents a significant step forward for our State in modernizing waste management practices and promoting environmental sustainability across the state.

MES is dedicated to advancing innovative solutions to complex environmental challenges, and we believe that SB 901 aligns perfectly with our mission. By assigning producers greater responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products, this bill will incentivize sustainable product design, reduce waste, and alleviate the financial burden on local governments.

The Senate went through a deliberative process and thoughtfully considered issues raised by stakeholders. The product before you includes thoughtful amendments to the bill as a result of the stakeholder input. These changes ensure that the EPR Program will be both effective and equitable, fostering collaboration among producers, local governments, and environmental organizations.

This system aims to enhance recycling rates and reduce landfill waste. It could also stimulate economic growth by creating opportunities for innovation in packaging design and recycling technologies. Ultimately this will position Maryland as a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

With this, MES urges the Committee to grant SB 901 a favorable report.

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