



Senate Bill 901 – Environment - Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility Plans

March 27, 2025

Position: INFO

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland respectfully submits comments on Senate Bill 901 regarding extended producer responsibility (EPR). Over the years, the bill sponsors have been working with us to address our many questions and concerns regarding this issue.

We appreciate that the requirements of this legislation would not apply to restaurants and similar establishments that are headquartered in the State (and do not meet the bill's "de minimis" definition), and primarily sell food intended for immediate consumption. We worked with the bill sponsors in 2023 to negotiate this exemption language now in current law. In the Senate, we requested that this exemption language be retained, and we are requesting the same in the House.

We also appreciate that this legislation was amended in the Senate to remove the requirement for producers to reduce packaging material waste by at least 25% within 5 years. That would have been problematic for some of our restaurant members who do not qualify for the exemptions. We hope that the House will resist any attempts to reinstate that language.

And finally, we appreciate that the bill allows a producer to execute an agreement with another entity to designate responsibility for any packaging materials that would be subject to the program requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy