



**Bill:** HB 36

**Date:** February 9, 2021

**Position:** Support

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**HB 36 - Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility Support**

Dear Chairman Barve, Chairman Davis, and members of the two Committees:

Trash Free Maryland is a nonprofit organization focused on lasting change to prevent trash pollution. We bring together organizations, businesses, government agencies and decision makers, and individuals committed to reducing trash in Maryland's environment.

Trash Free Maryland enthusiastically supports HB 36, which would require producers of packaging and paper products in Maryland to submit a product stewardship plan that meets certain criteria to the Maryland Department of the Environment. This much needed legislation would help reduce costs placed on taxpayers by ensuring that producers share the burden of the end-of-life management of the products that they create and put onto the market. HB 36 would also improve recycling outcomes by incentivizing producers to use less packaging in their products, and the packaging that they do use would be more recyclable, thereby supporting recycling markets.

Extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper products is becoming more and more common globally, and many of the multinational companies that produce products in Maryland are already following similar EPR laws in other locations. Bringing extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper to Maryland would lead to a reduction in litter and waste, and an increase in recycling in the state.

**We urge a favorable report on HB 36.** Thank you.

Contact:

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