

To Delegates: Lierman, Charkoudian, D. Jones, R. Lewis, Love and Terrasa

Support HB0036- Environment -Packaging, Containers and Paper Products-Producer Responsibility

For far too long environmental concerns have been allocated to the consumers and their municipalities. It's been at least 3 decades, industries have been promoting recycling as a means to dealing with the trash of their packaging. This ruse used by corporations has only encouraged more wasteful packaging and has done little to alter the dilemma. As published by Oceana, more than 500,000 volunteers around the world collected over 18 million pounds of trash from local waterways one day in September 2017. It's been reported that only 10% of plastic is recycled. Documentaries show cities in foreign countries where plastic is piled 2 feet high. It's time for producers and businesses who create this packaging to help alleviate the problem.

HB0036 Extended Producer Responsibility(EPR)/Product Stewardship for Paper Products and Packaging is a good start. This law takes the burden of recycling costs out of the hands of the end-users and places it back onto the manufacturers and companies which supply the products and materials. Accordingly, achievement will be reached through various means such as reimbursing costs of collecting, transporting, and processing the materials. In addition, the businesses will contribute grants to help local governments support updating/upgrading recycling infrastructure. Enhancing our technology in these areas will lower the cost and energy output currently in use.

Data from Canada shows there is no increase of product price to the consumer by implementing these operations onto the companies. This law will be an asset in bringing about a cleaner environment, thus helping to mitigate climate change in our state.

Please support HB0036 with the amendment and remove the bottles from this bill.

Thank you,
Carla Tevelow
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