



HB1239 – Environment - Plastic and Glass Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Testimony before House Environment and Transportation Committee

March 9, 2022

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today to support with amendments HB1239, to increase recycled content of a number of consumer items. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Delegate Terrasa in bringing this legislation.

HB1239 would prohibit the sale of several items including trash bags, plastic beverage containers, shopping bags, and rigid plastic food containers unless they meet minimum requirements for recycled content. This legislation is needed to help Maryland meet its goals regarding waste diversion. And the planet needs this legislation to help close the loop on recycling, while reducing throwaway waste items that are clogging our oceans and waterways with single-use plastic.

Several changes are needed to strengthen this legislation, to ensure that the goals that are set truly do increase the use of recycled content in real-time. These amendments are outlined in the Maryland Sierra Club testimony. The changes noted will ensure that producers cannot create exemptions that thwart the intent of the law, will help agencies to set realistic and achievable goals that are actually increasing the use of recycled content, and will provide producers financial incentives to stay in compliance with the regulations.

For these reasons, we are in support of this legislation, with the Sierra Club amendments to strengthen the bill, and ensure it has the outcome that is needed for our state and our planet.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill with amendments.

Richard Deutschmann
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