



**Bill:** HB 307

**Date:** January 31, 2022

**Position:** Support

## **HB 307 - Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility Support**

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We write in support HB 307. This bill sets up an incentivized system to reduce packaging, increase recycled content in packaging and increase the recyclability of packaging, all of which will ultimately reduce resource consumption, transportation costs, landfill volume and litter across the state.

Setting up producer responsibility for packaging will reduce the amount of packaging littering our communities and waterways. It will also create incentives to increase the recycled content and recyclability of packaging – another step toward reducing litter. And create the economic incentive for producers to design better packaging.

Maryland's recycling laws are much as they were when enacted in 1988, with a few updates made along the way – setting up producer responsibility for batteries and electronics, for example. This bill gives us the opportunity to modernize recycling for packaging in the state, involve the expertise of manufacturers of packaging as to how best to do that, and financially support the counties for some of their costs related to recycling packaging. The bill begins a transition from counties bearing the full financial cost of collection, sorting and resale of packaging to producers, who control the content and design of their products, being incentivized to reduce their packaging and increasing its recyclability.

Producer responsibility programs for packaging have long been in place in Canada and Europe. Maine and Oregon adopted packaging programs last year and a number of states are, like you, considering it this year. Industry trade editorials now often refer to producer responsibility as an idea whose time has come.

We urge you to support this common sense bill to help us transition to a society that uses and requires less material resources, and uses the ones we have more wisely.

Nina Beth Cardin  
Director, Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights