



## Howard County, Maryland

**Testimony: HB 1239 Environment – Plastic & Glass Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program**

**Hearing Date: Mar 9, 2022**

**Bill Sponsor: Delegates Terrasa, Stein, and Ruth**

**Committee: Environment and Transportation, Economic Matters**

**Submitting: Less Plastic Please**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County, MD grassroots organization representing more than 200 advocates and was instrumental in passing the plastic-bag-fee and plastic reduction act in our county. We support **Plastic & Glass Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content** with amendments.

This bill would prohibit producers of certain glass containers/products and plastic products, such as plastic carryout bags, plastic beverage containers, rigid plastic containers, plastic trash bags, from selling, offering for sale, or distributing the products in Maryland unless they satisfy a minimum percentage post-consumer recycled (PCR) content requirement. The PCR content requirement targets would increase over time.

A minimum PCR helps divert waste from landfills and incinerators and reduces the demand for virgin materials and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their manufacture. Virgin plastics are made from fracked methane byproducts and are a significant cause of the climate crisis and the plastic pollution crisis. PCR also provides incentives to improve the overall quality of PCR materials, and incentives to redesign products to be more recyclable.

We respectfully request that the bill be made stronger by:

- Ensuring targets are met through a mechanism of incentives or strong penalties.
- Ensuring that high quality food-grade PCR materials are available and not in short supply which can be accomplished through beverage container deposit programs. These programs provide much cleaner and less contaminated materials to the manufacturers. A Maryland beverage deposit bill should be considered to make it easier for achieving targets and lessening the need for exemptions.
- Ensuring that Maryland counties and municipalities are NOT preempted from setting stronger PCR content requirements

We urge a favorable report with amendments.

[Less Plastic Please](#)

Submitted by Liz Feighner

[lessplasticpleasehoco@gmail.com](mailto:lessplasticpleasehoco@gmail.com)