



Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

TESTIMONY ON: HB0307 – Environment - Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: February 2, 2022

BILL CONTACT: Delegate Brooke Lierman

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members who live in all districts of Montgomery County as well as several neighboring jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment. DTMG strongly supports HB0307 because it will reduce plastic pollution in our environment.

Waste materials (particularly plastics, but also paper and cardboard packaging) are becoming a bigger and more expensive problem for the state. Consumer education is important in changing this dynamic, but we also need to change the behavior of manufacturers, distributors, and sellers to ensure that their products are packaged in recyclable or compostable materials, instead of plastics or other materials that our recycling systems can't handle.

HB0307 will be a major step forward in managing waste materials. It will lay the groundwork for changing the behaviors of the manufacturers, distributors and sellers, by making them responsible for ensuring that their packaging is recyclable or compostable and requiring them to develop a disposal plan. The disposal plan can be developed by individual manufacturers, sellers or distributors, or by stewardship organizations. The proposed reporting requirements will ensure that each individual organization (or the stewardship organization) is following their plan.

Furthermore, the bill also has teeth, by creating an Office of Recycling which will conduct a statewide recycling needs assessment, approve disposal plans and levy fines for not following the plan, and requiring fees paid to local governments to collect, transport and process the packaging.

Importantly, this new process will not hurt small businesses, which are already struggling. HB0307 targets large businesses that make more than \$1 million in gross revenues or produce more than 1 ton of packaging materials and exempts businesses that are part of a franchise.

Enactment of HB0307 will be game-changing in terms of getting manufacturers, distributors, and sellers to re-think the kinds of packaging they make and sell, which in turn will help us all become better at reducing waste and plastic pollution in our environment. Therefore, DoTheMostGood strongly recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0307.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-Lead, DTMG Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599