



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

2 February 2022

Committees: Environment and Transportation & Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB 307 – Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

Position: Favorable

RE: Support For HB 307 – Environment – Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

Chairs Barve and Wilson, Vice Chairs Stein and Crosby, and members of the Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees:

As you consider the merits of **HB 307**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **HB 307** a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports HB307, which will create Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging. This bill is important because it protects our environment and compels producers of packaging materials to act in the best interests of Maryland residents and local governments by requiring them to submit a packaging material responsibility plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

HB 307 will:

- Make better use of taxpayers' dollars, save local governments money, and increase profits from recycling
- Improve recycling infrastructure and strengthen recycling markets
- Reduce packaging waste

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards, including that of unrecycled waste that threatens the health of our Eastern Shore and its pristine waterways. Here in Salisbury, we continue to promote recycling and sustainable practices through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that foster an atmosphere of social and environmental responsibility across Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore.

This legislation, if enacted, would foster a culture of accountability amongst the producers of packaging materials as each would be required to submit a plan to the MDE. By encouraging producers to act responsibly while bolstering recycling programs across Maryland, this bill will help us to take meaningful action as we seek to turn the tides of climate change while reducing waste and protecting our environment.

I ask for your **support** of this critical climate action legislation.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor