



**HB217 Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and  
Waste Systems in Maryland  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 2, 2022**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

**Background:** HB217 would establish a Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland. The Task Force will make recommendations to update the Maryland Recycling Act.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association strongly supports efforts to study and invest in expanding Maryland's recycling infrastructure. The Task Force proposed in HB217 will make recommendations to support the development of more recycling markets in Maryland, allowing for a wider variety of waste items to be recycled in the state. Investment in recycling infrastructure as an alternative to banning single-use products is good for the environment, for consumers, and for businesses.

We would request that the sponsors amend the bill to expand the seats on the Task Force to ensure that all stakeholder industries will be represented in the discussions, including retail and manufacturing. A sustainable, circular economy involves everyone, and we believe that all stakeholders should have a seat at the table in this matter.

Studying and expanding Maryland's recycling infrastructure will not only decrease our reliance on foreign markets but will create jobs and provide more opportunities for Marylanders to make thoughtful choices about what they buy and how they use and dispose of items. Increasing the variety of items that can be recycled in the state will allow Marylanders to buy the products they need from local businesses and later dispose of them in a manner that is positive for the environment and could boost other items that are manufactured with recycled material.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB217 with the addition of retail representation on the proposed Task Force.