



House Bill 1239

Environment - Plastic and Glass Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

MACo Position: **SUPPORT
WITH AMENDMENTS**

Date: March 9, 2022

To: Environment and Transportation and
Economic Matters Committees

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1239 WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would establish a minimum threshold for postconsumer recycled content in plastic and glass products.

HB 1239 sets minimum standards for postconsumer recycled content found in almost all plastic and glass products by creating the Postconsumer Recycled Content Program. Producers primarily administer the program; they are responsible for implementation, reporting, and third-party verification. In addition, the legislation sets increasingly progressive postconsumer recycled content percentages that producers must continually meet.

Counties support the ideas set out in HB 1239. It is essential that environmental action be taken by all involved parties and not just left to the State and local governments to clean up. MACo is concerned with section 9-2410, which preempts local governments from going above and beyond a floor set by the State. A county government's proximity to its community better allows it to address specific localized issues, especially when it comes to the environment. The bill should be amended to eliminate the preemption of local laws and instead set a floor for counties to exceed if appropriate for a community.

HB 1239 is a good step forward in ensuring Maryland has a healthier environment. Unfortunately, section 9-2410 weakens both the intent and effect by removing a local government's ability to go above and beyond the State's floor. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to provide a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 1239.