



SB292 Environment – Environment – Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

The Printing & Graphics Association Mid-Atlantic respectfully opposes SB292. The printing & graphics industry in Maryland encompasses roughly 16,000 employees across 500 companies and is among the largest manufacturing sectors in the state. We believe that this legislation would increase the cost of paper-based packaging materials.

According to the most recent available data provided by the EPA, the paper industry is far and away the leader in recycling rates and landfill avoidance. As a percentage of generation, 68% of paper or paperboard products are ultimately recycled, with just 26% ending up in a landfill. Compare that to the 9% recycling rate for plastics, with 76% ending up in a landfill. When you look at paper container and packaging specifically, these rates are even better. 80% are recycled, with just a 15% landfill rate. Additionally, corrugated cardboard, which would arguably be the most widely used product covered under this legislation, is already recycled at rates in the range of 90%.

The printing and graphics industry is struggling with extraordinary challenges in securing paper for projects as well as absorbing significant increases in cost which, in many cases, they are unable to pass along due to contractual obligations or competitive issues. These paper allocation and higher cost issues will continue into 2023 at best. To add additional costs and new regulations on packaging materials now, places a burden on the industry that, in the best of times, faces numerous challenges. This legislation attempts to address an issue that the printing and graphic industry wholeheartedly embraces and has taken numerous initiatives over the years to responsibly recycle and dispose of paper and paper products.

Due to the inequity of recycling and recovery rates between the paper industry compared to other recyclable materials, as well as cost challenges already faced by our members, this legislation would create an additional burden on our industry, which is already more than pulling its weight.

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