



## **GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION**

**Committee:** Finance

**Testimony on:** SB292 - “Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility”

**Organization:** Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

**Submitted By:** Lisa Hemmer, Member

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 16, 2022

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization – a community organization in Montgomery County with 50 members or more -- submits testimony in support of SB292, a bill that would establish requirements for state recycling assessments and impose producer responsibility for planning and reducing producer packaging.

### **SB292 would:**

- Create an Office of Recycling
- Require statewide and county assessments and plans to address extensive components of recycling needs
- Define and assess fee requirements for Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), and require PROs to develop 5-year Producer Responsibility Plans
- Address and define components of packaging materials that create consumer waste
- Modernize waste and recycling systems, facilitating improvement of reuse, composting, and recycling rates, as well as recycling markets
- Promote reduction of waste
- In coordination with PROs, establish goals for reduction of non-recyclable packaging
- Impose penalties for PRO violations of their Producer Responsibility Plans
- Authorize financial assistance for the transport of recyclables.

### **We support this legislation for the following reasons:**

- Food waste in landfills produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide in its first 20 years of release to the atmosphere.
- Compost is a valuable soil amendment that enhances soil fertility, soil water-holding capacity, soil organic matter, and soil structure.
- The future for Maryland residents is composting, recycling and reduction of packaging waste
- This bill would acknowledge science.

**Conclusion.** This bill ensures Maryland’s commitments toward environmental sustainability. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.