



TESTIMONY FOR HB1239
Environment - Plastic and Glass Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Terrasa

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1239 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our recycling policy is a mess. Some counties have dual stream recycling and some have single stream. The amount of plastic that is thrown into landfills is disturbing, since most of it is not recyclable. How can we allow so many producers to make plastics that they know can't be recycled?

This bill would attempt to rein in the free-for-all with plastics by requiring that certain plastic containers must meet an established minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage. Those percentages increase over time. Some products are exempted, such as wrap used for meat packaging, or dry cleaning or newspapers as well as refillable beverage containers and biodegradable trash bags.

We need this legislation. Plastic production is out of control and our landfills are getting stuffed with plastic that will not biodegrade.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.