



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0342 – Environment – Plastic Products – Post consumer Recycled Content Program
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 22, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB342. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB342.

HB342 establishes the Post-consumer Recycled Content Program (Program) in the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Office of Recycling. The goal of the Program is to increase post-consumer content in plastic containers, specifically, beverage containers up to 2 gallons, rigid containers used to package or store food, and household cleaning product or personal care product containers. The bill requires a producer of these containers sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the State to meet minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements; register with MDE; and pay an annual fee to cover Program costs.

Packaging is 28% of Maryland's waste and 40% is plastic. Increasing the requirement for post-consumer content in plastic containers will strengthen the market for recycled content. The bill establishes post-consumer content requirements for each of the three containers, ranging from 15% to 50% by 2025 through 2039. HB342 is consistent with approaches in other states such as New Jersey, California, Oregon, and Washington.

This bill establishes goals for recycled content, strengthens the State's recycling process, and reduces the amount of new plastic in widely-used containers. For these reasons, we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for HB342 in committee.