

February 22, 2023

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Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair, and  
Members, Committee on the Environment and Transportation  
House of Delegates,  
State of Maryland  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**In re: HB 284 - Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials – Producer  
Responsibility; testimony in support.**

Dear Chair Barve and Members,

On behalf of the members of the Plastics Division of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), thank you for this opportunity to **urge support** for HB 284, relating to: producer responsibility in Maryland.

ACC and our members are working hard to create a more circular economy for plastics and end used plastic in the environment. That is why ACC and its Plastics Division members were among the first to establish ambitious, forward-thinking goals that all plastic packaging in the United States is reused, recycled, or recovered by 2040 and that all U.S. plastic packaging is recyclable or recoverable by 2030.<sup>1</sup>

Achieving these goals will require industry, manufacturers, brands and retailers, recyclers, and waste haulers, as well as citizens, communities, non-profits, academics, and federal, state and local governments to come together to support policies and programs to increase the supply of and demand for recycled materials and create the circular economy we all want.

A well-designed product stewardship program should:

- Increase the collection and sortation of all recyclable materials, including metals, paper, glass and plastic;
- Invest in the appropriate infrastructure to increase the types of materials that are currently recycled;
- Incent decisions that lead to lower environmental impacts;
- Support the existing roles of local government and waste management companies, and include the voices of key stakeholders including government, waste management companies, brands, and material suppliers in decision-making; and

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<sup>1</sup> Plastics Division, “U.S. Plastics Resin Producers Set Circular Economy Goals to Recycle or Recover 100% of Plastic Packaging by 2040,” Media release (American Chemistry Council, May 9, 2018), <https://www.americanchemistry.com/chemistry-in-america/news-trends/press-release/2018/us-plastics-resin-producers-set-circular-economy-goals-to-recycle-or-recover-100-of-plastic-packaging-by-2040>.

- Improve outreach and education to consumers to help them recycle more material appropriately.

ACC recommends that producer responsibility should be based on data and science.<sup>2</sup> To guide creating producer responsibility, the state should also conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. The findings should inform the state, producers, and other stakeholders on how to effectively implement producer responsibility in the state. ACC holds that HB 284 supports these objectives and is an important part of creating a circular economy for plastic and other materials and keeping greater amounts of waste out of the environment.

**Roadmap to Reuse & Guiding Principles:** To reach our goals, we established a Roadmap to Reuse<sup>3</sup> to provide a comprehensive strategic framework and identify actions to help deliver needed solutions. In addition, ACC and its members have come together in support of six Guiding Principles<sup>4</sup> to accelerate progress toward creating a circular economy for plastics and the elimination of plastic waste. Our Roadmap and these Guiding Principles include support for policies such as HB 284.

**Industry Commitments:** The private sector, including many of America's plastic makers, are investing billions of dollars in plastics recycling. The enactment of legislation like HB 284 helps increase the collection of materials to reduce landfilling and accelerate a circular economy for plastics.

- Since July 2017, there have been more than 90 projects worth more than \$8 billion in announced investments to modernize recycling technologies in the U.S.
- These projects have the potential to divert more than 19 billion pounds of waste annually from landfills and are aimed at revolutionizing the use and reuse of plastic resources.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide this information to the committee. If you have any questions or if I may be of further service, please feel free to contact Josh Young, ACC's Senior Director, Mid-Atlantic Region at 202-249-6223 or [Josh\\_Young@AmericanChemistry.com](mailto:Josh_Young@AmericanChemistry.com) or Nick Manis at 410-263-7882 or [nmanis@maniscanning.com](mailto:nmanis@maniscanning.com).

Sincerely,



Adam S. Peer, Senior Director  
American Chemistry Council

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<sup>2</sup> Plastic Division, "5 Actions for Sustainable Change," Industry report (Washington, D.C.: American Chemistry Council, 2021), <https://www.plasticmakers.org/files/d6b3a34b9a88b1a6ee4da0a73b24562d740f80e4.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Plastic Division, "Roadmap to Reuse: Plastic Solutions for America," Industry report (Washington, D.C.: American Chemistry Council, September 2020), <https://www.plasticmakers.org/files/aaf59c57da5b7b4dc7882614986d7abdd79a2b95.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Plastic Division, "Principles for Eliminating Plastic Waste through a Circular Economy," Industry report (Washington, D.C.: American Chemistry Council, September 2020), <https://perma.cc/QSV5-CHTB>.