



american cleaning institute®

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Chairman Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland State Senate

Re: Testimony from the American Cleaning Institute on HB 31 – Unfavorable

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 31 which is being heard before your committee. The American Cleaning Institute (ACI) – the association for detergent and cleaning product manufacturers – has a vested interest in ensuring packaging such as that which is encompassed by this legislative proposal does not become waste. That is why we have a goal to eliminate all cleaning product packaging waste by 2040 and are already making great strides in creating more recyclable packaging, reducing our packaging usage and incorporating more recycled content into the packaging we do introduce to market.

We appreciate that the Legislature is considering a number of proposals to address packaging waste in Maryland. As such, we are happy to mention that we are favorable with amendments on HB284 which is a more comprehensive overhaul of the recycling system in the state.

Therefore, we do not believe that HB31 is necessary and sends the wrong message that recycling does not work. This could unintentionally divert important recyclable material from the recycling stream. Additionally, this could undermine packaging that is widely accepted for recycling across the country and can be recycled in Maryland under an improved system. More effort should be dedicated toward improving and expanding recycling infrastructure rather than disincentivizing it.

We would like to reiterate that ACI members support efforts to reduce packaging waste. We hope the Legislature will take more time to contemplate ACI input on this bill. ACI looks forward to providing necessary input regarding the performance of our products and packaging to achieve desired policy goals.

Sincerely,

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