



HB 31 - Environment – Products and Packaging – Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling

Date: February 20, 2023

Position: Support w/ amendments

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We enthusiastically support HB 31 and the premise that there must be greater accuracy in recycling labeling and environmental marketing. This bill is intended to ensure products labeled as recyclable or environmentally

friendly *actually have* the potential to be recycled in Maryland.

The chasing arrows symbol is frequently used for resin types that have little chance of being recycled. This bill would require chasing arrows be used on materials that *are* able to be recycled and a part of recycling programs that a majority of residents have access to. The bill also ensures greater accuracy in the myriad of environmentally friendly marketing claims that exist today.

Strengthening recycling programs in this way instills greater consumer confidence and builds trust in recycling programs. These are critical steps leading to more recycling participation, less solid waste and less litter.

We support amendments to remove plastic bags from the bill, to clarify certain provisions and to strengthen the enforcement provisions and look forward to working with the sponsor on those provisions.

We urge your favorable support of this bill so that we can further accuracy and consumer understanding of the recyclability of products we purchase every day.

Contact: Shari Wilson (shari@trashfreemaryland.org)

Annapolis Green

Trash Free Maryland

Blue Water Baltimore

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Mr. Trash Wheel

National Aquarium

Environment Maryland

Plastic Free Queen Anne's County

MD PIRG

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

MOM's Organic Market

Rock Creek Conservancy

Surfrider Foundation Ocean City