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**AMERIPEN
American Institute for Packaging and the Environment**

**Testimony
in Favor of
Maryland House Bill 109
Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 22, 2023**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Dana Stein, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

AMERIPEN – the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment – appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 109 (Love) that seeks to establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland. The Task Force has the potential to provide vital information and reporting needed to improve recycling systems, processes, and infrastructure in Maryland and help achieve the State’s recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals. **We, therefore, are in favor of HB 109 and encourage this Committee to advance it.**

AMERIPEN is a coalition of stakeholders dedicated to improving packaging and the environment. We are the only material neutral packaging association in the United States. Our membership represents the entire packaging supply chain, including materials suppliers, packaging producers, consumer packaged goods companies and end-of-life materials managers. We focus on science and data to define and support our public policy positions and our comments are based on this rigorous research rooted in our commitment to achieve sustainable packaging, and effective and efficient recycling policies. We have several member companies with a presence in Maryland, and many more who import packaging materials and products into the state. The packaging industry supports more than 15,000 jobs and accounts for nearly \$4.8 billion in total economic output in Maryland.

Packaging plays a vital role in Maryland, ensuring the quality of consumer goods as they are manufactured, shipped, stored and consumed, protecting the health and safety of Marylanders who consume, use and handle those products. Packaging has value and none of it belongs in landfills, roadsides or waterways. We need to recover it to be recycled and reused, and no one knows better how to do that than the AMERIPEN members who design, supply, produce, distribute, collect and process it. They are driving innovation, designing for better environmental performance to boost recycling and evolve the recycling infrastructure.

AMERIPEN supports policy solutions, including packaging producer responsibility, that are:

- **Results Based:** Designed to achieve the recycling and recovery results needed to create a circular economy.
- **Effective and Efficient:** Focused on best practices and solutions that spur positive behaviors, increase packaging recovery, recapture material values and limit administrative costs.
- **Equitable and Fair:** Focused on all material types and funded by shared cost allocations that are scaled to make the system work and perceived as fair among all contributors and stakeholders.

In conclusion, AMERIPEN supports solutions that will improve packaging recovery and recycling systems. The Task Force created by HB 109 could provide an essential evaluation of Maryland’s capacity to recycle products and meet recycling goals as well as identify gaps in the current recycling system and needs for improvement of current infrastructure. Such reporting could be extremely helpful in the development of effective and feasible recycling legislation and would provide value to the entire packaging value chain that constitute AMERIPEN’s membership and provide value to the residents of Maryland. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.