

February 22, 2022

Testimony on HB342
Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program
Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Plastic waste is a serious problem that will not go away easily. It is damaging our health and our environment. From the [UN Report on Single-use Plastics](#), “We are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic waste we generate, unless we rethink the way we manufacture, use and manage plastics. Ultimately, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges of our time will require governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act.”

HB342 is a significant step in addressing our plastic waste problem. By requiring that plastic containers sold in Maryland have a minimum percentage of post-consumer recycled plastics, the total amount of plastic created will be reduced.

Another important aspect of this bill is the expansion of the market for recycled plastic. Personally, I use curbside recycling every week, the recycling bins at my office, and, even when I visit Ocean City, Maryland, I collect my household’s recycling and drive it back to Howard County to put out curbside. It’s frustrating to know that so much plastic, even that sent for recycling, ends up in landfills. By expanding the market for recycled plastic, more will be kept out of landfills and incinerators. Further, the cost to local governments of operating their recycling programs can be offset by selling the plastics to businesses that create post-consumer recycled plastic for use in new containers.

I encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

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