



To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Economic Matters Committee

From: Ellen Valentino

Date: February 22, 2023

Re: HB 342 Environment – Plastics Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program
Oppose

The MD-DE-DC Beverage Association is the trade association representing the local soft drink industry. Increasing the recycled content in its packages is a top priority for the beverage industry. The good news from the soft drink beverage industry is that we are well underway to meeting the provisions of the legislation and making our beverage containers 100% recyclable.

In light of the current events and supply chain issues, we must also consider the realities of the marketplace, and it is important to note that these realities can slow these efforts, especially when trying to achieve standards for an individual state.

Should the Committee choose to move forward there are provisions of the legislation that are concerning and would need change.

1. Concerns over the Definitions: Plastic beverage containers would be subject to both the plastic beverage container content requirements and the rigid category.
2. The calculation of recycled content is limited to covered products sold in the state. This should be a national or, at a minimum, regional calculation. If not changed – this would result in local beverage manufacturers and other local producers having to procure materials and produce containers only for the Maryland market.
3. The bill requires proof of third-party certification. It is unclear as to the standards for providing certification.

Thank you. Additionally, please visit our website at www.everybottleback.com to read in full our commitments and partnerships around our containers and packaging as a whole.

MARYLAND • DELAWARE • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION
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