



February 22, 2023

House Bill 284 – Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland sincerely appreciates that the bill sponsor has been working with us to address our questions and concerns regarding House Bill 284. We especially appreciate that this legislation would not apply to a restaurant establishment with more than \$5,000,000 in gross revenue during the immediately preceding calendar year, is headquartered in the State, and primarily sells to members of the public food that is generally intended to be consumed immediately and without the need for further preparation.

We opposed this legislation as introduced last year because of numerous concerns. With respect to this year's House Bill 284, we continue to have conversations with the bill sponsor regarding the scope of the restaurant exemption language for various operational scenarios (e.g., restaurants based elsewhere but operating as a separate Maryland LLC, restaurant franchisees, franchisors, etc.). We have also shared other questions and concerns with the bill sponsor regarding branded vs. non-branded food service packaging materials, our industry's challenges with meeting the 25% packaging material waste reduction requirement specified in the bill, and clarification about some other vague language in the legislation.

We hope to continue working with the bill sponsor on potential amendments to address our remaining concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy