



February 22, 2023

House Bill 342 – Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland opposes House Bill 342.

Our members are concerned that the recycled content requirements proposed by this legislation will affect the future availability of suitable rigid plastic food containers to meet our needs. When Maryland's ban on polystyrene foam became effective, many of our restaurants struggled to find appropriate alternatives. We believe passage of this legislation will make it even more challenging to find cost-effective foodservice containers that achieve our performance requirements.

The availability of food containers with specified recycled content is also subject to marketplace realities. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for food-contact packaging materials also cover post-consumer recycled content (PCR). We have learned that the supply of PCR resin types that meet FDA requirements for food-contact applications has typically been low and varies between resin types. Also, the use of PCR impacts the rigidity of foodservice packaging containers.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation and request an unfavorable report.

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