



## HB 342 Environment – Plastic Products – Post consumer Recycled Content Program

**Date:** February 20, 2023

**Position:** Support

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We enthusiastically support HB 342 and the goal of increasing post-consumer content in the three types of items: plastic beverage containers up to 2 gallons in size, rigid plastic containers used to package or store food and plastic containers used for household cleaning products or personal care. The post consumer content requirements are established in the bill for each of the three items and range from 15% to 50% by

dates that range from 2025 through 2039.

Plastic production continues to grow. In addition to doubling of production over the past two decades, projections forecast production to triple by 2050. Packaging is 28% of our waste and 40% of that is plastic.<sup>12</sup>

Increasing the requirement for post-consumer content in goods will strengthen the market for recycled content. Ensuring these standards are established based on current post-consumer content rates, technical and market capacity for increasing post-consumer content and continual evaluation as to whether capacity to increase recycled content has advanced. This bill is consistent with approaches in other states such as New Jersey, California, Oregon and Washington.

Strengthening use of recycled content in this way instills greater consumer confidence and builds trust in recycling programs. These are critical steps as they will lead to more recycling participation and less litter. This bill would establish goals for recycled content, improve environmental outcomes and strengthen recycling progress in the State.

Contact: Shari Wilson ([shari@trashfreemaryland.org](mailto:shari@trashfreemaryland.org))

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Environment Maryland

MarylandPIRG

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Rock Creek Conservancy

Mr. Trash Wheel

MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

National Aquarium

Surfrider Foundation Ocean City

Trash Free Maryland

Plastic Free Queen Anne's County

Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

MOM's Organic Market

---

<sup>1</sup> Containers and packaging make up a major portion of municipal solid waste (MSW), amounting to 82.2 million tons of generation in 2018 (28.1 percent of total generation). Packaging is the product used to wrap or protect goods, including food, beverages, medications and cosmetic products.<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/containers-and-packaging-product-specific>

<sup>2</sup> Global plastic waste generation more than doubled from 2000 to 2019 to 353 million tonnes. Nearly two-thirds of plastic waste comes from plastics with lifetimes of under five years, with 40% coming from packaging, 12% from consumer goods and 11% from clothing and textiles.  
<https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastic-pollution-is-growing-relentlessly-as-waste-management-and-recycling-fall-short.htm>