

HB342 – Environment – Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

February 20, 2023

Position: Favorable

I, John Ford, support HB342 to support recycling programs in Maryland, reduce waste, and help fund critical programs.

I am writing to provide testimony in support of HB0342, the Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this bill is an important step towards reducing our reliance on single-use plastics and promoting a more sustainable future for Maryland.

The Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program would require certain plastic products sold or distributed in Maryland to contain a minimum percentage of postconsumer recycled content. This would help to reduce the amount of virgin plastic being produced, which is a significant contributor to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and pollutes our waterways.

In addition to the environmental benefits, this program would also provide economic benefits for Maryland. By encouraging the use of recycled materials, the state can create jobs in the recycling and waste management industries. The fees paid to the state would also help fund critical public action. We must also aggressively enact measures to reduce waste and move away from packaging that causes harm to the planet and public health in its production and disposal, like Maryland's ban on foam food packaging and Baltimore City's plastic bag ban; but there is certainly more we can do.

I respectfully urge a favorable report.

John Ford

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