



**February 18, 2025**

**To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee**  
**Re: SB 901 EPR for Packaging**

Maryland Recycling Network members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We support SB 901 with amendments

SB 901 establishes a Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility program. In 2023, we supported SB 222, the legislation on which this bill is based (specifically the Third Reader as it passed the Senate). Most of the amendments we suggested were accepted. Our amendments concerned both technical fixes so that the bill reflected how waste and recycling are managed in Maryland to more substantive amendments. They were based on a desire to ensure that local governments remain in charge of their programs and the public and private sector Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators remain in charge of their facility. SB 901 contains those provisions.

We are puzzled by the purpose of Section 2 at the end of the bill. It calls for each local government in the state to file a feasibility plan with MDE prioritizing the sale of recycled packaging materials back to manufacturers with a manufacturing facility in the state. Not only is this an unfunded mandate for Maryland's local governments, we are not sure what it will accomplish nor who the potential manufacturers are. We suggest it be deleted.

We appreciate Sen. Augustine's dedication to increasing recycling and in EPR for a variety of products. We look forward to working with him as the bill is amended.

The Maryland Recycling Network is a resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Chaz Miller  
Chair, MRN Legislative Committee