



FOODSERVICE PACKAGING
INSTITUTE®

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February 14, 2025

Informational Only: Senate Bill 901 – AN ACT concerning Environment – Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility Plans (SB 901)

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments concerning Senate Bill 901 – *AN ACT concerning Environment – Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility Plans (SB 901)*.

Founded in 1933, the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) is the leading authority on foodservice packaging in North America. FPI supports the responsible use of foodservice packaging, while advocating an open and fair marketplace for all materials. Our core members include raw material and machinery suppliers as well as packaging manufacturers, which represent approximately 90 percent of the industry. Additionally, a number of distributors and purchasers of foodservice packaging are part of FPI's affiliate membership.

The foodservice packaging industry is committed to reducing the impact of its products on the environment and is dedicated to increasing their recovery. FPI has several special interest groups that bring together the supply chain to develop and promote economically viable and sustainable recovery solutions for foodservice packaging. These special interest groups include the Paper Recovery Alliance, Plastic Recovery Group, Paper Cup Alliance and Foam Recycling Coalition. More information on these groups and their efforts can be found [here](#).

As part of our commitment to increasing the recovery of foodservice packaging, FPI is supportive of policy approaches that advance this effort through systems such as recycling and composting. With respect to extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, it is our position that programs should be based on the principles of shared responsibility, fairness and system effectiveness and efficiency.

FPI appreciates the ongoing effort to develop an effective EPR framework in Maryland. However, we believe additional time is necessary to complete the needs assessment and allow the Packaging Advisory Board to thoroughly finalize its work before advancing an EPR proposal.

In addition, the EPR landscape in the United States has continued to evolve, offering additional perspectives and lessons learned from other states since this bill was originally introduced in 2023. New opportunities exist to review and consider recent EPR approaches, such as those in Minnesota's EPR law, as well as the current EPR proposal in Washington (House Bill 1150), among others.

FPI appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of a well-informed and effective EPR policy in Maryland. We also welcome the chance to provide our perspectives with respect to foodservice packaging and EPR.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments and information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "C. Patterson".

Carol Patterson
Vice President, Government Relations
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