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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0069 -
FAVORABLE

Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0069, Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

We are drowning in plastic pollution, which litters our neighborhoods, our beaches, and the Chesapeake Bay, where it can harm or even kill birds and marine animals like turtles. Our “[Trash in America](#)” report details how this pollution threatens our health, environment and the global climate.

[New research](#) has found that the Chesapeake Bay has become a “sink” for plastic pollution. Microplastics have been found in 75-100% of Chesapeake Bay water samples. ¹

This bill will mandate conditions under which plastic products are sold or distributed in Maryland. It will add fees for those products that can fund Department of the Environment efforts to deal with plastics in the environment.

This bill will be about prohibiting certain producers of certain plastic products from selling, offering for sale, or distributing the products to any person in the State unless certain conditions are met. It establishes a registration process for those businesses with a fee for that registration. This will be accomplished by requiring certain producers of certain plastic products to, individually or as part of a representative organization, register yearly, beginning March 1, 2026, and pay a registration fee annually beginning May 15, 2026, to the Department of the Environment; establishing minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage requirements for certain products.

The bill acknowledges that plastics pollution is an environmental harm and crafts ways in which our Department of the Environment can manage and hopefully mitigate that problem.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0069.

¹ <https://environmentamerica.org/maryland/articles/who-is-responsible-for-marylands-plastic-pollution/>