

**Testimony in Support of HB0069**  
**Environment – Plastic Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program**  
**House Environment and Transportation Committee 14 February 2025**  
**Submitted on 12 February 2025 by 8:30 am**

To the Chair and Committee Members,

**My name is Janet Ruhl. I live in Galena, MD, on the Sassafras River,** and I urge a **favorable** report on HB0069. Thank you in advance for your consideration of support.

This bill requires producers of certain plastic containers that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the State to meet minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements for affected products. This bill also establishes the Post-consumer Recycled (PCR) Content Program, to be administered by MDE's Office of Recycling and paid for by producers.

Plastics pollute the environment throughout their lifecycle, leaching toxic chemicals and breaking down into micro- and nano-plastics, which can now be found everywhere on earth. We must do more to reduce unnecessary plastics from being produced, used and discarded.

This Bill will create reliable markets for post-consumer plastic, providing a pull for recycling and reducing production of virgin plastic.

This Bill works alone but has even more impact when considered with other bills proposed in the Maryland Senate and House to provide mechanisms for reducing plastic bottle manufacturing and waste. The additional proposals - the Water Bottle Filling Stations Requirement (HB0277/SB0096), the Bill Allowing Reusable Beverage Containers in Sports Venues (HB0639), and the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (SB0346/HB0232) - will:

- Allow Maryland consumers to use refillable beverage bottles on a daily basis in buildings with water bottle filling stations and also in sports venues.
- Allow Maryland consumers to reduce spending on single-use beverage bottles.
- Provide Maryland consumers with incentives to return single-use plastic bottles instead of discarding the bottles in landfills or as roadside litter.

I **support** Bill HB0069 requiring Plastic Products to contain a minimum post-consumer recycled content for multiple reasons. I have led roadside and river trash removal efforts for decades. One of the main trash items is plastic bottles. My family, friends and neighbors support recycling but are often confronted with the perception and, at times, reality that plastics sent for recycling are still ending up in landfills. This bill requires producers to use post-consumer plastic leading to a higher rate of recycling and lower rate of waste.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give HB0069 a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,  
Janet C. Ruhl