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National Waste
& Recycling AssociationSM

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 14, 2025

House Bill 69 – *Environment – Plastic Products – Postconsumer Recycled Content Program*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA-MD) is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. NWRA-MD and its members support with amendment House Bill 69.

This bill requires producers of covered products to meet minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements for affected products. NWRA generally supports such policies because of the potential to expand the market for curbside recyclables. Such proposals can spur demand for more material, increase the value of recyclables, strengthen the domestic recycling market, and help offset the cost of recycling. Paper is an example of an area in which post-consumer recycled content laws could bolster demand for recycled materials. Paper is 60% of the curbside recycling stream and greatly impacts all recycling programs. Increased demand for paper, plastic, and other materials will stabilize prices, making recycling sustainable in municipalities struggling with increased costs and unable to find markets for their materials.

NWRA-MD has been in contact with the Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) about this legislation and is aware that they have made a number of suggestions for amendments to various components of the bill. Suggested changes include adjusting the dates for achieving recycled content goals to make them more achievable and recognition of the realities of the market for recycled goods. NWRA-MD supports the MRN amendments and with such amendments, requests a favorable report of the bill.