

KEVIN M. HARRIS
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's
Counties

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 302
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Kevin.Harris@senate.maryland.gov

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in Support of SB 926
Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products – Definition of Exempt
Materials – Alteration

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

SB 926 is a very simple bill; It provides a technical fix to the Producer Responsibility legislation passed last year by altering the definition of exempt materials to include packaging for a product regulated as a Dietary Supplement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The exemption language for Dietary Supplement was removed last year during an extensive amendment process, however, because packaging for dietary supplements is regulated by the FDA, complying with Maryland's EPR requirements is effectively impossible unless federal regulations change.

I've requested an amendment to this bill which exempts paper products used for greeting cards. Greeting cards are special, expressive forms of communicating and connecting that are often kept as meaningful keepsakes rather than discarded, and they should not be treated the same as packaging waste under EPR policies. Of the seven states with packaging EPR laws, three, California, Maine, and Oregon, exclude printed paper products, and similar efforts are underway in Minnesota and Washington, so we must ask why greeting cards are being singled out instead of keeping these policies focused on true packaging waste.

With this in mind, I respectfully request a favorable committee report on SB 926.