



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
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TO: House Environment & Transportation and Economic Matters Committees

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 4, 2026

RE: **HOUSE BILL 92** – Environment – Beverage Containers Connected with Plastic Rings – Restriction on Sale

On behalf of Maryland's convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB92.

This legislation would prohibit retailers, such as convenience stores, from offering for sale beverage containers that are connected to other beverage containers with a plastic ring connector that is *not* made of a biodegradable material.

Generally, the plastic ring connectors that are used by retailers today are made from post-consumer recycled plastic. They provide a convenient and economical way to package beverage containers for customers.

These rings also come in a variety of environmentally conscious options including carriers that are designed to snap apart easily without the need for cutting. Others are designed to break down if they find their way into waterways.

Arbitrarily banning these products can lead to cost increases and complex disposal requirements (e.g. composting) for biodegradable alternatives. Adding such requirements can lead to consumers throwing these alternatives in the trash, adding them to our landfills instead of putting traditional connectors into our recycling streams.

For these reasons, MAPDA respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report on HB92.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.