



The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
February 4, 2026

**Re: Oppose House Bill 92- Environment – Beverage Containers Connected with Plastic Rings-
Restriction on Sale**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland, Delaware, DC Beverage Association, we are requesting an unfavorable report for House Bill 92.

The MD-DE-DC Beverage Association is the trade association representing the local soft drink industry. Our members have a strong presence across the State of Maryland. Increasing the recycled content in our packages is a top priority for the beverage industry. We, the industry, have endeavored to reduce plastic waste in the environment while also protecting the environment.

House Bill 92 seeks to prohibit a person from selling, offering for sale, or distributing for sale beverage containers that are connected to other beverage containers with a plastic ring connector unless the plastic ring connector is made of biodegradable material. Though the impact of this bill is not solely written to impact our members, we do partner with the manufacturers of these products in the sale of some of our products.

We appreciate that House Bill 92's sponsor took time to discuss this bill with us, and other impacted entities. Our industry has continued to share our concern with the sponsor that there is a lack of alternatives currently available to ship, transport, deliver and carry our products.

Our industry has been in communication with manufacturers of these plastic ring carriers to explore environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives made from post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials. As we understand it, some manufacturers are already using plastic rings made from 55% PCR content and they are striving to get to 100% PCR content. The use of recycled content advances the goal of reducing the use of raw plastics and decreases plastic rings ending up in landfills or places other than recycling facilities.

We understand that there is an interest in forcing manufacturers to use paper-based products but, as we understand it, there are challenges with those products. House Bill 92 only considers a product's biodegradability as a relevant factor, which seems like a narrow scope against the larger backdrop of environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tiffany Harvey
Executive Director, MD-DE-DC Beverage Association