



HB0092

Beverage Containers Connected with Plastic Rings - Restriction on Sale

Testimony before Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing 2/4 1:00 PM

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 1600+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0092**, which would end the sale and distribution of beverage containers that are connected to other beverage containers with a plastic ring connector, unless the plastic ring connector is biodegradable.

I live in Howard County, and we cannot recycle those rings. They can get tangled in the automatic recycling sorting machines. They often end up in the environment and endanger wildlife, fish, and even our pets. They break down into microplastic, which then gets into our waterways and ultimately our bodies. They are single-use, which is so wasteful when there are alternatives. The containers can be boxed (so much better than a plastic connector or covering). There are compostable alternatives. And there are even cans now that can screw into each other and don't need anything else to hold them together.

This is one small step to getting rid of single use plastic, and it is so easy to use an alternative. When we do trash pickups, it's amazing how much plastic, including these rings, that we pick up. And there is nothing to do with them but throw them away and take up more landfill space where they will take decades if ever to disintegrate. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Virginia Smith
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