

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Brooke E. Lierman

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: February 11, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 209 – *Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, 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. MDSWA and its members **supports with amendment** House Bill 209, related to the composition of the Single Use Products Workgroup.

House Bill 209 prohibits a store from providing a customer with a “plastic carryout bag” and requires a store to charge, collect, and retain at least 10-cents for each “durable carryout bag” provided to a customer. While plastic bags definitely contribute to local litter problems and present challenges for recycling facilities in the management of recyclable materials, MDSWA’s primary interest in this legislation is the proposed creation of a Single-Use Products Workgroup.

The stated purpose of the Single-Use Products Workgroup is to study, identify, assess, and make recommendations regarding materials, process, infrastructure, and policy to directly address plastic and single-use container waste throughout Maryland in alignment with the Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland that was established by Executive Order 01.01.2017.13. Included in the Workgroup’s charges is the evaluation of current State and municipal policies and requirements for the management of single-use products and to recommend policies or requirements that the State should enact to reduce the use of single-use products, reduce the environmental impact of single-use products, improve statewide management of single-use

products, divert single-use products from disposal in landfills, and prevent contamination of natural resources by discarded single-use products.

The Workgroup membership includes two members from the solid waste industry. MDSWA strongly supports the inclusion of the waste industry on the Workgroup but would request that the language of the bill be amended to specifically include a representative from MDSWA on the Workgroup as opposed to two industry representatives generally. MDSWA representation would enhance the quality of information and analysis that the Association could provide to the Workgroup in achieving its objectives. MDSWA would also suggest that the Maryland Recycling Network, which includes both public and private sector entities engaged in the recycling industry, be included as a member of the Workgroup.

With its amendments to the Workgroup composition noted, MDSWA requests a favorable report.

For more information call:

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