



BALTIMORE INDUSTRIAL GROUP

February 5, 2021

Hon. Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve,

Re: HB36

On behalf of the Baltimore Industrial Group (BIG), I am writing to urge the committee to vote unfavorable on HB36- *Extended Producer Responsibility/Product Stewardship for Packaging & Paper Products*. BIG and our members involved in manufacturing and packaging of various consumer goods find the proposed scheme to be complicated, burdensome, and impractical. Furthermore, the full fiscal impact of the legislation on business, while unclear, is clearly meaningful. BIG is disappointed with the apparent lack of outreach to the industrial community regarding this bill, whose literal buy in is expected on the back end if this legislation were to be enacted, but seemingly not welcomed on the front end when developing the policy itself.

The Baltimore Industrial Group (BIG) was established in 2005 by public and private business organizations in the Baltimore metropolitan region to advocate for industry and maritime operations and represents an array of businesses involved in manufacturing, transportation, maritime, shipping, and warehousing. BIG members alone employ 16,000 workers directly in quality, high-paying jobs.

Manufacturing and packaging businesses in Maryland have invested in reducing the amount of packaging used for their products, made strides in using recyclable materials, and have actively worked to encourage proper recycling on the part of consumers. Requiring companies to help fund local recycling efforts raises a number of questions: How do businesses determine what portion of their products end up being consumed in the state when it is distributed by third party national distributors? What will the total cost be for products manufactured here in Maryland, but then sold to consumers in other states or countries who may also enact similar legislation?

Beyond the practical considerations of how this bill will work there is also a question of cost to businesses that provide so many well-paying jobs to Marylanders but operate on tight margins. Rather than this bill, we would ask that the General Assembly consider

legislation to encourage the reduction of the stream of trash and recyclables or at least study this issue and its apparent implementation in other countries.

BIG is proud of its member's continuing efforts towards sustainability and waste reduction, all done through a collective consciousness of the world we currently live and the world we want our future generations to inherit. Great strides have been made and will continue to be made without cumbersome and costly legislation such as HB 36, but only when all parties are brought to the table to develop solutions and not simply asked to pay for ideas of limited few.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fraley
Chair