

**TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION**

HB36 – Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility

Position: Support

February 9, 2021 Public Hearing

Neil Seldman, Director, Waste to Wealth Initiative, nseldman@ilsr.org
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance urges a **favorable** report on HB36 – Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility.

I am the director of the Institute’s Waste to Wealth Initiative and have undertaken extensive research on Extended Producer responsibility model legislation.

(<https://ilsr.org/new-federal-legislation-presents-the-opportunity-to-break-free-from-plastic-pollution/>;
and, <https://ilsr.org/critiques-of-different-approaches-to-extended-producer-responsibility-in-canada/>.)

Bill HB36 calls for establishing the Municipal Reimbursement form of Extended Producer Responsibility that holds producers of packaging and products financially responsible for the costs their materials impose on the public. This keeps essential features of progressive recycling intact: namely, it allows organized citizens to retain their right to participate and vote on local decisions affecting their community. Further it will provide critically needed funding for Maryland’s cities and counties to build necessary infrastructure. In turn this allows independence in decision-making for collection (explore dual stream, co-collection), processing (proper scale and ownership), and local planning (design waste reduction, composting, repair and reuse) for the highest levels of diversion from landfills and incinerators.

Other forms of EPR put the recycling system under the total control of producer industries and will be a barrier to the state and its jurisdictions from making their own decisions and incentives. The corporate controlled EPR model will not allow the energy and creativity of organized citizens at the local level that is needed for the state to realize the full benefits of a circular materials management system. Thus in British Columbia where corporations are in full control over the recycling system, corporate authority is being used to undermine the existing bottle bill system and expand incineration of waste materials.

Maryland needs both EPR Municipal Reimbursement AND a state bottle bill.

Sincerely,



Neil Seldman