



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0031 – Environment – Products and Packaging – Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 22, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB031. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorable with amendments on HB031.

HB031 alters labeling requirements for plastic containers and bottles, and specifically related to recyclability. The “chasing arrows” symbol is frequently used for plastic resin types that have little chance of being recycled. This bill requires that chasing arrows be used only on materials that *are* able to be recycled and are accepted by available residential recycling programs. HB031 also establishes standards for “environmental marketing claims” and requirements for products or packaging to be considered recyclable. The bill will prohibit and penalize a manufacturer or distributor from making untruthful, deceptive, or misleading environmental marketing claims and from depicting misleading recyclability information on their products.

Consumers are easily confused by the chasing arrows symbol, leading to the assumption that any product with the arrows is recyclable and/or contaminating local recycling programs with materials that in fact cannot be recycled. HB 031 will instill greater consumer confidence and build trust in local recycling programs. We support ways to improve the bill as recommended by Trash Free Maryland.

We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for HB031 in committee.