

HB31 - Environment – Products and Packaging – Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling

House Environment and Transportation & Economic Matters Committees

February 22, 2022

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairs Barve and Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports HB31.

People all across Maryland are increasingly interested in both recycling and adopting Zero Waste practices, but confusion about what recycling means and what can and cannot be recycled can damage our local recycling programs and public confidence in them. Misleading recycling arrows trick residents into putting non-recyclable materials into the recycling, costing our county recycling facilities money and time to remove it from the recycling stream. If it is not removed, it can lower the value of the recycling raw materials for resale.

For consumers, dealing with misleading recycling arrows is time-consuming and discouraging. Even the most thoughtful and dedicated of recyclers can make mistakes because we cannot trust the label to steer us correctly. Proper recycling is not just an individual responsibility; ensuring that packaging promises reflect recycling reality is also necessary to make recycling programs work.

Maryland residents deserve accurate and useful information about the recyclability of products we are buying, and HB31 will make that more possible.

Thank you,

Emily Ranson
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org