



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 307

Environment—Packaging Materials---Producer Responsibility

Environment and Transportation Committee

Economic Matters Committee

2/02/2022

Good afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, and Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. My Name is Rev. Linda Boyd, and I am here on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 307.

According to a study undertaken several years ago by the World Economic Forum, seventy-eight million tons of plastic packaging is produced annually for global consumption. Further, in the same study, it was reported that only 14% of global plastic packaging is collected for recycling and only 2% is reused as packaging. The State of California reports U. S. plastic packaging production figures at thirty million tons annually.

HB 307 calls for producers of typically single-use plastic covered packaging establish stewardship organizations, as are being established in other states, to join and help pay for such existing organizations.

To increase the value of recycled plastic resin (and thus recyclables), the bill contains recycled content standards for certain types of plastic packaging.

We respectfully ask for a favorable recommendation for HB 307.