



## Senate Bill 901

### *Environment - Packaging and Paper Products - Producer Responsibility Plans*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation and  
Economic Matters Committees

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From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 901. This bill creates a framework to establish more robust recycling infrastructure for packaging materials in Maryland.

One of the most heavily produced items in the world is packaging materials. The world's consumer-focused economy relies on the purchasing of goods, and those goods need to be protected from the factory to their final destination in consumers' homes. However, this protection comes at a cost, and can generate a large amount of materials. SB 901 seeks to reduce waste and make communities healthier by establishing a producer-driven entity focused on either creating or supporting existing packing material recycling infrastructure. Importantly, counties that function as both collectors and recyclers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for both services, extending the capacity of local programs and providing more flexibility to local tax dollars.

Counties appreciate the advocates and sponsors for proposing a plan that not only strengthens Maryland's recycling efforts but also preserves local autonomy. Additionally, counties thank the sponsor for collaborating with MACo to incorporate amendments that support these goals without imposing further strain on already resource-limited local governments.

SB 901 marks an important step in fortifying Maryland's recycling infrastructure. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 901 a **FAVORABLE** report.