



SENATE BILL 11

Business Regulation – Returnable Containers – Plastic Secondary Packaging

January 26, 2010

POSITION: Support

Madame Chair and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Matters Committee:

On behalf of the members of the *Restaurant Association of Maryland*, we strongly support Senate Bill 11, which would help deter the theft of plastic crates, trays and containers from business storage areas by requiring acceptable documentation when such items are sold to a recycling business.

While we have made great strides in recycling promotion, our success has not come without a few unintended consequences. With the growing market for recyclables, there has been a significant increase in the theft of materials that can fetch top dollar at recycling centers which, in turn, sell the materials to manufacturers.

In recent years, some of our larger restaurants, caterers and industry suppliers have been the victims of such thefts. While the current recession has driven down the price of recycling commodities, the passage of this legislation will be helpful in discouraging the sale of these stolen products once the economy recovers, without sacrificing our sustainability goals.

For these reasons, we support SB 11 and request a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy