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BILL NO.: **SB 642**

TITLE: Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

SPONSOR: Senator Brooks

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 5, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 642 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program as a common-sense approach to boosting recycling rates and saving valuable landfill space across Maryland.

Baltimore County currently supports residential recycling by offering curbside pick-up of recyclables in our most populous communities. These materials are then brought to a County-operated Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where they are sorted, baled and sold to third parties for further processing or reuse. This process provides a modest revenue stream for the County to run the facility and continue offering curbside recyclables collection.

However, we know that even with residential recycling, as a County, we are not capturing all recyclable materials generated by businesses, multi-family housing, or residents outside of our current curbside service area. SB 642 creates a mechanism by which these other recyclable materials can be captured. Increasing rates of capture for recyclable materials, whether through our own MRF or a Statewide container refund will benefit Baltimore County’s municipal landfill by diverting these materials and reduce litter along our roadways and riverbanks.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 642 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.