



Environmental Education on the Potomac

March 1, 2024

RE: *Support The Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction bill (HB 735/SB 642)*

Dear Maryland State Senator Brooks,

On behalf of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in Maryland and your focus on the Environment, a critical part of Maryland's Chesapeake Watershed.

We strongly support the establishment of this Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

The Alice Ferguson Foundation is a highly regarded environmental education facility that has been serving students and environmental enthusiasts of all ages for 70 years. Thousands of Pre K-12 students are hosted each year for interactive day and overnight programs that bring to life the science, plants and animals they are studying in their classrooms. More than 8,000 students participate in our Bridging the Watershed program which takes students to national and state parks in the Potomac Watershed where they learn, hands-on, about how a watershed works and how to keep it clean. Another 10,000 volunteers participate in trash cleanups in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC.

We educate, promote and support best practices in Environmental Education. By establishing this refund law in Maryland, we can reduce litter and plastic pollution and increase water quality, a basic human right and need. With our waterways and our protection of the Bay, we must evoke measures to keep our waterways clean.

Please evoke this bill so we can reduce contaminants in our waterways and improve water quality for all Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theresa Cullen".

Theresa Cullen
Executive Director