



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill 642, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund
and Litter Reduction Program
Education, Energy and Environment Committee – March 5, 2024
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2024 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of SB 642. Every year in Maryland, around [four billion beverage containers end up in the landfill](#), littering the parks and watersheds, or even worse they will end up as pollution in the air after being incinerated. [Plastic bottles break into microplastics that are consumed by wildlife, and end up in our food and water, causing health issues for humans as well as animals.](#)

Senate Bill 642 would create a container deposit return system that will reduce litter and plastic pollution in Maryland's rivers and watersheds, increase water quality and create green jobs in Maryland. [Container deposit return systems have been implemented successfully in dozens of jurisdictions across the world.](#)

Senate Bill 642 would incentivize residents to return containers, including plastic bottles, which would reduce incineration of plastic containers and divert them from landfills. Senate Bill 642 will not just increase the number of containers that are returned for recycling, but will also create a higher quality of recycled material which significantly increases the likelihood that the container is actually used to manufacture a new product, versus [single-stream recycling](#) where all recyclables are mixed in together resulting in residues and contamination.

With SB 642, Maryland can create a robust and effective container deposit return system that will protect the environment and the economy. Every year we wait, another four billion beverage containers enter our environment. We need to act now.

We ask for your support for SB 642 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Tazeen Ahmad
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler
WDC Subcommittee on the
Environment

Cynthia Rubenstein
Chair, WDC Advocacy