



**Odette Ramos**

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**Testimony**  
**SB0642 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program**  
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**FAVORABLE**

Honorable Chair Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I am writing to urge your support of SB0642, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

SB0642 is an important bill that would provide Maryland with the ability to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce the litter and pollution. It will allow jurisdictions to create our own programs to ensure that residents can return bottles and cans to redeem their deposit. It will also prohibit a producer from selling, offering, or distributing into Maryland a redeemable beverage container unless they have taken the necessary and appropriate steps with the Department of the Environment.

In Baltimore, we are working to reduce the use of the BRESKO trash incinerator and help our efforts in diverting waste from the landfills. This will also provide our City Council with the ability to create our own bottle recycling program—something that the Council has been wanting to implement since the 2013 bottle bill. Having the bottle bill in Baltimore City will incentivize cleaning up our streets and ensuring there is less waste in our landfills and incinerators.

Please issue a favorable report for SB0642.

Respectfully Submitted:

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