

Testimony Supporting HB0841
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 19, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maryland District 43, and a person increasingly affected by the climate crisis, I am writing to express my strong support of HB0841 for a water bottle filling stations requirement, and related reporting on sales of water bottles.

The data increasingly indicate the climate crisis is coming harder and faster than we had hoped it might, and is racking up a death toll and economic impacts that we should be treating as a global emergency. It is going to take large federal expenditures and policy changes to do what needs to be done to avoid the worst effects of climate change, executed in cooperation with the rest of the world.

In the meantime, states like Maryland can forge ahead with initiatives like HB0841 to show that smaller actions can have a big impact, and that these changes can improve our health and quality of life at the same time they help to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels across the economy. Plastic derived from fossil fuels, and specifically single-use plastic, is helping to feed the world's appetite for the continued extraction of more fossil fuels. A new, widely reported [study from the Center for Climate Integrity](#) settles the value of recycling as a solution once and for all: recycling is not an answer to our plastic problem. It never was, and Big Oil and the plastics industry have been lying about it for decades. HB0841 recognizes the real solution to our plastic problem: less plastic production and less plastic consumption.

HB0841 identifies a relatively easy way to stem the demand for fossil fuels – maybe only by a fraction, but every fraction counts, just as every fraction of a degree of warming counts. Maryland can and should lead in this way, serving as a model for other states, but also for the nation, in how we can work toward a more sustainable way of life that will allow us to leave behind a livable planet for the next generation.

I urge you to give HB841 a FAVORABLE report.

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