

DAVID TRONE
6TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
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JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 4, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Room, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Vice Chair, Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Room, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Dear Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan,

I would like to express my full support for *Senate Bill 642- Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program*.

Litter from beverage containers is an urgent and growing problem that threatens the health of humans and wildlife. The sanctity of our waterways is under grave threat from plastic pollution. An example of how troubling this threat poses to the ecology of our state is that more than half of the trash recovered from the Anacostia River watershed can be attributed to beverage containers. The problem has reached such severe levels that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared the Anacostia Watershed and Baltimore Harbor as impaired by trash; two of just three bodies of water throughout the nation with such a classification.

Ten U.S. states have effective policy in the area of beverage container deposit programs. SB642 is modeled after these proven beverage container deposit laws that have demonstrated a highly effective means to reduce beverage container litter. The law provides an incentive for Marylanders to not leave beverage containers in the environment, as well as recycle them when they're found. The benefits of this law include the capture of 90% of beverage containers for recycling, reduced costs for local governments, the creation of jobs, and it supports the development of reusable beverage containers.

I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 642- Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program* the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone
Member of Congress