



TESTIMONY FOR HB0841
Environment - Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction
Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Environment and Transportation, Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0841 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports a bill that requires a water bottle filling station be installed in new construction. In Maryland, water bottles are overwhelmingly treated as throwaways. It is estimated that only 3% of our plastic bottles are recycled. The other 97% of plastic bottles end up in landfills, incinerators or dumped into the environment. There are numerous negative effects of plastic water bottles, from energy use to harboring harmful chemicals such as PFAS and BPAs.

Many plastic water bottle users would prefer an alternative however, many buildings don't provide any. Therefore, using your own bottle may not be dependable or a convenient solution. This bill would not only make new buildings install water fillers, but it would also help set the expectation that all buildings have this convenient and reliable source of water.

Furthermore, this bill requires Maryland to research and discover alternative solutions to our plastic water bottle usage issue and publish the findings, thus not only raising awareness, but actively providing solutions.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.