



SB96 Environment – Water Bottle Filling Stations Requirement

Date: February 11, 2025

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

We enthusiastically support the goal of reducing plastic waste and making it easier for Marylanders to use reusable water bottles. According to the OECD, global **production of plastic is projected to triple by 2060**. One of the key drivers of the increase is packaging – including single use plastic bottles.

Only a small fraction of plastic is recycled, and the rest is disposed of or mismanaged. Locally, in Maryland, at the Baltimore Waterfront Partnership's 2024 fall count of trash in "one" dumpster, **1,973 plastic bottles** were found. The Trash Wheels can collect 16 dumpsters worth of trash during a single rainstorm. We have all noted the proliferation of plastic trash and bottles along our roadways. We must do better.

SB 96 increases opportunities for Marylanders to save money and use a reusable water bottle on the go. As we have seen at airports and schools, these water refill stations work. People use them. Let's make this the norm. SB 96 gets this policy option underway efficiently – adding the stations with public drinking water fountains in new construction or certain renovations.

Contact: Kelly Doordan (kelly@trashfreemaryland.org), Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland

Trash Free Maryland

Blue Water Baltimore

National Aquarium

Clean Water Action

Little Falls Watershed Alliance