



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Room 2 W. Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Re: **OPPOSE - SB 346**– Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Beer Wholesalers Association (MBWA) we are writing in opposition to **SB 346** which requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a beverage container deposit program.

The MBWA consists of 22 Maryland businesses employing over 1,400 Maryland citizens that are majority owned and operated generational family businesses. Our members are committed to recycling and reducing litter in Maryland. The policy discussions around recycling and solid waste disposal are important ones and are taking place here and around the country. We recognize the importance of the issue and are proud of the steps we have taken to recycle all the material in our warehouse and business and encourage our customers to do the same.

There is a better way to recycle and reduce litter than implementing a program that costs consumers more at the cash register, historically is plagued with fraud, and most notably, imposes significant operational changes and costs to MBWA members and our retail customers.

We look forward to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Needs Assessment report and we are committed to working with you and other stakeholders to develop a recycling system that addresses all recyclable materials. Additionally, Maryland has not had a statewide anti-litter campaign in over 35 years. Litter campaigns can be very effective with the development of a committed public-private partnership. MBWA would welcome participation in an anti-litter campaign should the Maryland Department of Transportation and/or MDE establish a stakeholder group to develop and execute such a program.

Sincerely,

Nicholas G. Manis
Executive Director

CC: John Favazza