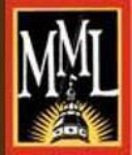




# Prince George's County Municipal Association

*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman  
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

## **Position: Support with Amendment**

### **Policy: Senate Bill 346 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes on behalf of the 27 municipalities that collectively represent more than 955,000 residents, to share our strong support of Senate Bill 346.

The proposed legislation offers substantial benefits for our communities through its comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship and economic development. From an environmental perspective, the program would significantly reduce litter in our streets, parks, and waterways while increasing recycling rates across the state. This aligns Maryland with successful container deposit initiatives already implemented in neighboring states.

The economic advantages of this program are equally compelling. The legislation creates new revenue opportunities for participating municipalities through the establishment of redemption centers and development of local recycling infrastructure. The grant program embedded within the legislation will help ensure equitable access to these economic benefits across different communities.

With these benefits stated, we only have recommendations on amendments which would be to help clarify the location and method of the distribution centers. Maryland's neighboring states have clearly demonstrated the success of similar programs in achieving both environmental and economic objectives. The time has come for Maryland to join this regional effort.

**Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) respectfully requests a favorable report for SB346 with the recommended amendments.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celina R. Benitez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, President, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)