



Laurel for the Patuxent strongly supports the Beverage Container and Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, HB 232 (or SB346). The purpose of our organization is to promote the health of our Patuxent River watershed through a variety of environmental projects which include establishing native plant gardens, planting trees, environmental education and art, invasive plant removal, and sponsoring litter cleanups, all in the city of Laurel.

While engaging in these activities and just in general driving throughout our state, we are all aware of the amount of litter along the roadsides, a substantial portion of which are beverage containers. That is because only about 23% of beverage containers sold in the state are collected for recycling. The rest are left in the environment, most of which will eventually enter the river, the Bay and eventually the ocean. We know that a bottle redemption program, which has already proven effective in ten US states and numerous countries around the world, would successfully address this issue. Without this bottle return program, nothing will be done and the litter will just continue to pollute our waterways.

In addition to litter reduction, this program has many other advantages as enumerated in the fact sheet which has been distributed. As written, it would be self-financing - taxpayer funding would not be necessary so it is a win-win solution.

We look forward to the passage of HB232 into law this legislative session so that it becomes an important part of the effort our state continues to make in creating a cleaner, healthier Maryland.

Jessica Coyle, President

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