



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Ron Watson, Senator
121 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: City of Bowie Support for HB 232/SB 346

Dear Senator Watson,

The City of Bowie urges you to support HB 232/SB 346, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, also known as the Maryland Bottle Bill.

The objective of this program is to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution. We understand that this program would add a small refundable deposit to the purchase of beverage containers. The deposit would be fully refunded when the empty containers are returned to a convenient retailer or other redemption point. The program would be financed and implemented by beverage producers through a nonprofit Stewardship Organization, not by the City or its residents. We expect that the Maryland Department of the Environment will provide strong oversight.

Programs like this have been operating in 10 U.S. states for decades and are the most effective policy for reducing beverage container litter. With a 10-cent deposit on most containers, it could capture 90% of beverage containers sold in the state annually, divert an additional 3.6 billion beverage containers annually from landfills, and reduce pollution from littered plastic bottles that contaminate the local environment, streams and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

This program would benefit our residents by reducing unsightly litter, increasing recycling, and reducing the amount of municipal solid waste that the City must collect and process. It is estimated that the City of Bowie could save approximately \$100,000 in tipping fees if bottles were diverted from our waste stream.

We urge you to support HB 232/SB 346, to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution, provide cleaner parks and waterways, and create savings for municipalities and local taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Adrian A. Bofo, District 23 Delegate
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23 Delegate
The Honorable Kym Taylor, District 23 Delegate
The Honorable Ingrid S. Watson, PGCC District 4 Council Member