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TESTIMONY ON SB#0346 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0346, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Maryland has an ambitious program to reduce waste and pollution. This bill is one component of that strategy dealing specifically with reduction in plastic waste from the use of plastic bottles. It implements a program to deal with recycling of those bottles and reduction of litter from discarding them into the environment.

According to a report from the World Economic Forum discussing a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) “We Can Cut Plastic Pollution by 80% by 2040 – here’s how” reduction of plastic bottle usage is a component of achieving that goal.¹

NPR reported “The plastic problem isn't your fault, but you can be part of the solution.”² This forward-looking bill says that Maryland is listening and will become a model on adopting solutions to achieve our environmental goals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0346.

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/06/reduce-plastic-pollution-unep/>

² <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/12/1015296355/zero-waste-single-use-plastic-trash-recycle>