

Water Bottle Filling Stations Support Written Testimony

February 7, 2025

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Subject: SB96: Environment - Water Bottle Filling Stations - Requirement

Position: **Favorable**

I am writing in support of SB96, which will establish a requirement for a water bottle filling station, or a combined water bottle billing station and drinking fountain, in certain new construction or as part of certain renovations, beginning October 1, 2025.

This is common-sense legislation that will address the issue of the proliferation of single-use water bottles that enter the waste stream, wash into our waterways, and create unsightly litter in our neighborhoods and streets.

Good ecological stewardship requires that we reduce the amount of plastic that enters our environment and causes pollution issues that are harmful to wildlife and habitat.

As an active volunteer that advocates for streams and who has participated in stream clean-up efforts, I can personally testify to the amount of water bottles that end up in our waterways.

This legislation will reduce the amount of plastic that enters the state's environment and will improve Maryland's ecosystems. Making it a requirement in new construction and renovations will help set a standard for eco-friendly construction and move Maryland forward in achieving our sustainability and environmental goals.

I urge a favorable vote on SB96.

Sincerely,

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