



## **TESTIMONY FOR SB0096**

### **Environment - Water Bottle Filling Stations - Requirement**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Brooks

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0096 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports a bill that requires a water bottle filling station be installed in new construction. In Maryland, water bottles are overwhelmingly treated as throwaways. It is estimated that only 3% of our plastic bottles are recycled. The other 97% of plastic bottles end up in landfills, incinerators or dumped into the environment. There are numerous negative effects of plastic water bottles, from energy use to harboring harmful chemicals such as PFAS and BPAs.

Many plastic water bottle users would prefer an alternative however, many buildings don't provide any. Therefore, using your own bottle may not be dependable or a convenient solution. This bill would require the installation of water fillers in all water fountains in all new construction and it would also help get us to a place where we have an expectation that all buildings have this convenient and reliable source of water.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.