



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill 346, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter
Reduction Program**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment – February 18, 2025
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2025 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of budget neutral bill **SB 346**. This bill would create a beverage container deposit program in Maryland with a 10- or 15-cent refundable deposit on metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers, and will achieve at least a 90% redemption rate, compared to the current average 25% recycling rate of containers.

Where do the rest of the containers end up currently? In our environment. Littered plastic beverage containers break down into small plastic particles -- microplastics and nanoplastics -- where they are ingested by wildlife, impact fish and our waterways, and move up the food chain to people. We are all concerned about our health and our children's health, as every month we see more and more research and news articles written on the health impacts of the plastic pollution in our environment.

We strongly support for **SB 346** since it is the best solution to resolve the plastic litter problem, it is budget neutral, and it will save money for local municipalities who currently spend their resources to clean up litter.

A recent [poll](#) found overwhelming public support for the Maryland Bottle Bill: 91% of registered voters would support a program with refundable deposit, funded by beverage producers, not taxpayers. Every year we wait, another four billion beverage containers enter our environment. We need to act now.

We ask for your support for SB 346 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Tazeen Ahmad
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler
WDC Subcommittee on the
Environment

Diana Conway
WDC Advocacy Co-Chair