

RE: Support for the Bottle Bill (SB0346)

Dear Senators Feldman and Kagan, Chair and Co-Chair of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

I understand that your Committee will soon be considering a vote on the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, or the Bottle Bill (HB0232). This bill was introduced last year, but did not make it out of committee.

This bill is highly popular among Marylanders. A January 2025 public opinion poll conducted by the Sierra Club found that more than 90% of Maryland voters would support a beverage container deposit program to prevent littered and wasted beverage containers and reduce plastic pollution. According to the Container Recycling Institute, about 5.5 billion beverage containers are sold each year in Maryland, but only a quarter are captured for recycling. As a result, more than 4 billion beverage containers, 2.6 billion of which are plastic, end up in the environment annually -- in landfills, on roadsides, or in waterways -- or are incinerated.

I personally support the bill because it will increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce litter, pollution, and the cost associated with them. It will also encourage grassroots initiatives which not only serve as a catalyst for significant positive results, but also raise the collective conscience and the "we are in this together" bonding - both being sorely needed and an empowering spirit of community. The bill will offer a terrific income-generation opportunity for fundraisers for many organizations from the Girl and Boy Scouts to school environmental organizations to individuals on their daily walks.

Ten states have had such bottle bills in place since the 1970s, and have seen recycling rates of between 60-90%, compared to Maryland's 23%. And yet, since then the plastics and beverage industries have successfully blocked bottle bills in other states. As a Maryland voter, I urge you to put public opinion and care for our environment before industry qualms. Please support the successful passage of the Bottle Bill in your committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Crump". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "P" and "C".

Patrick Crump

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