



February 5, 2025

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
Re: HB 277 Water Bottle Filling Stations
Support**

Maryland Recycling Network members are public and private sectors recyclers and recycling advocates. Our members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We promote sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We support HB 277 and thank Delegate Ruth for introducing it

HB 277 is an outstanding example of waste reduction at work. Many of us use the water bottle filling stations at BWI. Every time we do we eliminate the use of a water bottle or can. While we can recycle those containers, why use them if we have a refillable option? After all, every time we choose to refill we conserve natural resources and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

HB 277 simply requires installing these water bottle filling stations in new building construction where water fountains are required and installing them when older buildings with water fountains are being renovated. This is a win for Maryland's environment.

We urge speedy passage of this bill.

The Maryland Recycling Network is a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in recycling and waste reduction. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Chaz Miller
Chair, MRN Legislative Committee