



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0277 Environment – Water Bottle Filling Stations – Requirement
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 5, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0277. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB0277.

The bill requires that a water bottle filling station be installed in new construction where a drinking water fountain is required under the current version of the international plumbing code or state or local law or regulation, and in buildings undergoing renovation if drinking fountains will be replaced. Many plastic water bottle users would prefer an alternative; however, many buildings don't provide other options. Using your own water bottle may not be a dependable or convenient solution. This bill will solve this problem by installing water bottle fillers in new and renovated buildings.

In Maryland, it is estimated that only 3% of all plastic bottles are recycled. They are treated as throwaways. The other 97% of plastic bottles end up in our landfills, incinerators or dumped into the environment. There are numerous other negative effects of plastic water bottles, from energy use in manufacturing to being a source of harmful chemicals such as PFAS and BPAs.

Transitioning to accessible water bottle filling stations encourages Marylanders to embrace reusable alternatives, cutting waste and lowering the environmental footprint. HB277 also has positive economic benefits, not only for individuals who will spend less on bottled water, but also municipalities who will spend less on waste management.

In conclusion, HB 277 represents a practical, impactful step toward achieving Maryland's climate goals, reducing waste, and enhancing public health while reinforcing our state's leadership in sustainability. I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report and help Maryland continue its journey toward a cleaner, greener, and more forward-looking future.

We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee for HB0277.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
WISE