



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

March 09, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1089 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 1089 and would like to provide the following information regarding this bill.

House Bill 1089 would establish a Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (Program), which would address the collection and redemption of beverage containers sold in the state. MDE would be required to oversee the Program and enforcing seller and distributor registration requirements and container disposal prohibitions

MDE supports efforts to divert redeemable beverage containers from the waste stream. Many existing state “bottle bills” have been in place for 30+ years and have an average recovery rate of 67%; however, to implement House Bill 1089, MDE would need significant additional staffing and fiscal resources.

MDE recommends addressing glass collection and glass recycling in greater detail, the bill as currently written could unintentionally exclude these industries based on global revenues.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 1089 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-453-3235 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach
Deputy Director
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

cc: The Honorable Jen Terrasa
Tyler Abbott, Director, Land and Materials Administration