



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

March 7, 2023

Hon. Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee, Chair
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: Support HB1089 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Delegate Barve,

Thank you for your work on behalf of Montgomery County residents in Annapolis. We appreciate having you as a partner in our shared goal to forge a greener, more sustainable future for all. Each year across Maryland, over 5 billion beverage containers are sold but only 23% of those plastic bottles are recycled - the rest end up in Maryland waterways or landfills and incinerators. Annual stormwater reports for Montgomery County indicate that close to 40% of all waste in our waterways are made up of plastic bottles.

HB1089 would incentivize residents to recycle more plastic bottles and ensure that plastic bottles sold in Maryland are made with a higher percentage of recycled materials. It would also reduce incineration of wasted beverage containers and divert them from landfills, as the County continues to move away from incineration to embrace the principles of zero waste.

Passing HB1089 would follow ten states that have already implemented similar legislation, the earliest enacted in 1970. Those programs with a 10-cent deposit per container have achieved 90% recycling rates and dramatic reductions in beverage container litter on land and in waterways.

We urge you to support HB1089 and ensure that Maryland and Montgomery County remain national leaders in environmental stewardship and waste reduction.

Sincerely,

Evan Glass
Chair, Transportation and Environment Committee

Kate Stewart
Councilmember, District 4