

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ
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CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

March 2, 2023

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

Dear Chair Barve:

I urge the Committee to fully support HB 1089, the "Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program."

The bill would place a small refundable deposit on beverage containers that are refunded to the customer when they are returned. With a 10-cent deposit, the program is expected to achieve a 90% recycling rate based on what has already been achieved in other states, a dramatic increase from the current recycling rate of 23% of the 5.2 billion beverage containers sold in Maryland. Equally important, it would reduce massive number of these containers, currently found in our watersheds. I have personally participated in stream cleanups, most recently in the Matthew Henson Park in Montgomery County, where we found numerous beverage containers flowing from a bus stop on Connecticut Avenue towards the stream. Furthermore, the program would be entirely funded by producers and unredeemed deposits, a portion of which would be used to finance a grant program to develop reuse and refill systems that can eventually replace single-use containers. An additional benefit to Montgomery County would be to help achieve compliance with the Trash TMDL for the Anacostia watershed and reduce the amount of beverage containers either incinerated or sent to landfills.

I urge the Committee to give full support to HB 1089, as it is urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Natali Fani-González
Chair, Economic Development Committee