



March 7, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve,

I am writing to ask you to pass the Maryland Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (HB1089), to increase beverage container recycling and reduce waste and litter!

Every year in Maryland, four billion beverage containers end up in our environment – in the landfill, incinerated, or littering the landscape and waterways, especially our beaches. Plastic bottles break into microplastics, are consumed by wildlife, and end up in our food and water, potentially causing health issues for humans as well as animals.

The Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (HB 1089) would reduce beverage container litter by as much as two-thirds, reduce plastic pollution, and more than triple the recycling rate for beverage containers in Maryland to 90%. The bill would add a small deposit to the cost of beverage containers that would then be refunded to customers when the containers are returned for recycling. That's a powerful incentive to return used beverage containers and to collect those that are littered, for their refund value!

Another benefit would be lowering the costs to the local government for recycling, landfilling, incinerating, and the collection of littered beverage containers, while creating new green jobs. It would be entirely self-financed and ease the burden on taxpayers!

I urge you to pass the Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program! Every year we wait, another 4 billion beverage containers enter our environment.

Thank you for your consideration,

John R. Heath
Mayor