



**Plastic Free QAC**  
921 Oyster Cove Drive  
Grasonville, MD 21638

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1089**  
**Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act**  
**March 9, 2023**

Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Committee Members:

My name is Bente Cooney and I am the Founder of Plastic Free QAC (PFQAC), a non-profit organization concerned with single-use plastic. I would like the record to show that Plastic Free QAC strongly supports HB 1089, which incentivizes bottle recycling which dramatically reduces littering.

As one of our many activities, PFQAC does monthly roadside clean-ups. While bottles are the third most frequent littered items in beach cleanups, they likely are **the** single most common litter along the roads.

If there was a 10-cent deposit on each and every one of these bottles, the problem would be almost totally eliminated. They would have been collected by children or adults for the reward. The proof is in the fact that States like Michigan and Oregon with a 10-cent bottle deposit legislation, have achieved recycling rates of 90%.

Plastic Free QAC is a registered 501c3 Non-Profit based in Grasonville, MD 21638

My husband and I sailed the seas for many years before we settled in Grasonville, and we always hated to see bottles floating on the surface of the ocean. The potential danger they cause to sea life is well documented.

In addition to the litter component, the plastic from recycled plastic bottles would provide excellent material for the post-consumer recycled content legislation being debated during this Maryland legislative session. There are many good reasons to implement a beverage container recycling bill.

Plastic Free QAC urge you to vote HB 1089 favorably out of Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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