



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 9, 2023

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 1089 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

While the Maryland Municipal League appreciates the goal of this bill to reduce litter and improve recycling in the State, we are concerned about the unintended consequences and must oppose HB 1089.

The logistical relationship between state, county, and municipal waste and recycling collection is detailed and complicated. Several municipalities own and operate their own processing plants, while others rely on county or even out-of-state centers, if they have access to a recycling program at all. Those with no access to recycling programs recognize the value, but do not have the resources to implement a program.

The program proposed in this measure is limited to certain beverage containers. Those containers comprise a small part of the waste stream; most curbside recycling programs include a variety of materials. Taking any action that disrupts existing curbside programs operated by municipalities will require more training, equipment, and possibly personnel, increasing the cost for us to operate recycling programs. Significant changes to existing and successful single-stream recycling will be challenging and prohibitively expensive for our cities and towns.

For these reasons, MML respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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