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The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Thank you for the opportunity to be here with you today. I am Delphine Dahan-Kocher, Vice President Public Affairs North America for Constellium, based in Baltimore. I live in Baltimore Country with my family and I have been a Maryland resident for the last 6 years.

Constellium is a global industry leader in the production and recycling of aluminum products. We supply mostly the packaging, automotive, and aerospace markets, and recycle both consumer scrap and used beverage cans (UBCs). We are a public company, listed on the New York Stock Exchange, with 12,500 employees and over \$8.5 billion in revenue. Our U.S. headquarters are located in Baltimore.

I am here today to express our strong support of a recycling refund program for the State of Maryland.

As a company that recycles in the United States the equivalent of 20 billion cans a year, the availability of scrap is critical to how we operate. We manufacture aluminum cansheet for customers such as Coke, Pepsi, or Budweiser, and today, our products include more than 70% of recycled content. We strive to promote the circularity of our products, meaning to recycle used cans and transform them into new ones. Ensuring that our business can rely on a steady supply of UBCs is one of our top priorities.



Using recycled cans instead of primary aluminum also allows us to significantly decrease our CO2 emissions, one of our key public commitment in terms of sustainability, and one that our customers and investors follow closely. Recycling aluminum emits 95% fewer emissions than producing primary metal. Without recycled aluminum, our carbon emissions would increase by close to 50%, while today we committed to decrease them by 30% in 2030.

Unfortunately, there are hardly enough cans today on the U.S. market, and we expect the issue to become more pressing in the coming years, as the demand for cans increases, while the recycling rate decreases. In the U.S., the recycling rate for cans is quite low compared to other countries – around 45%. Aluminum cans are still the highest recycled material by far, but we can and should do better.

Data have proven that deposits are the most efficient way to increase recycling. The recycling rate for aluminum beverage cans sold with a deposit is 77% while the recycling rate for aluminum beverage cans sold without a deposit is 36%¹.

If we look at Maryland, Maryland's recycling rate is around 54%². If we were to recycle them instead, and reach a 90% rate, we would recycle 600 million cans instead of sending them to landfill. generate close to \$10 million of additional revenue³, and many jobs for the State of Maryland. The energy saved in recycling these extra 600 million cans would be enough to power 27,000 households for one year, meaning it could power Annapolis houses for the next 18 months. And these extra 600 million cans could be back in the shelves of any grocery shop in Maryland after 60 days, after being recycled for instance in our facility of Muscle Shoals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today, and for your continued support of our company and our industry.

Delphine Dahan-Kocher

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¹ [Container Recycling Institute](#)

² [Ball 50 States of Recycling Report](#)

³ <https://canrecyclingimpact.com>