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Maryland PIRG



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NATIONAL AQUARIUM®



POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER® NETWORK



WATERFRONT PARTNERSHIP
OF BALTIMORE

HB 1089 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Date: March 9, 2023

Position: Support

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

We enthusiastically support HB 1089. This bill would set up a recycling refund program for beverage

containers. We all know the most effective recycling programs in the United States are in the 10 states where consumers can get a refund in exchange for returning their beverage container for recycling. HB 1089 would implement this program in Maryland.

The ten states with recycling refund programs supply 50% of our nation's recyclable glass supply. ¹

In states with recycling refunds, the recycling rate for plastic bottles is 67%. States without a recycling refund program recycle 17% of their plastic bottles on average. ²

States with recycling refund programs have 50% less litter than other states. ³

That's how effective these programs are. This is a tried and true policy for significantly reducing trash and litter in our streets, neighborhoods and waterways.

Recycling refund programs for beverage containers go hand in hand with producer responsibility programs for packaging. It is estimated that 40 to 60 percent of packaging is beverage containers.⁴ Producer responsibility programs help us *reduce* our volume of waste. Recycling refund programs help us *reuse* and *recycle* a major portion of the packaging waste stream.

Marylanders take great pride in our recycling efforts and are fed up with trash. A recycling refund program is a proven winner. We look forward to working with you on this exciting and highly effective policy. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Contact: Shari Wilson, Trash Free Maryland (shari@trashfreemaryland.org)

Anacostia Riverkeeper	Little Falls Watershed Alliance	Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Blue Water Baltimore	Maryland PIRG	Rock Creek Conservancy
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Mom's Organic Market	Trash Free Maryland
Environment Maryland	Mr. Trash Wheel	Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore
Friends of Quincy Run Watershed	National Aquarium	
Friends of Sligo Creek	Neighbors of Northwest Branch	
Institute for Local Self Reliance	Plastic Free QAC	

¹ Glass Packaging Institute 2023

² The 50 States of Recycling: A State-by-State Assessment of Containers and Packaging Recycling Rates 2021

³ Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study <https://kab.org/litter-study>

⁴ National Stewardship Action Council