

**Dorchester Citizens for  
Planned Growth (DCPG)**

**1533 Global Circle**

**Cambridge, MD 21613**

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB1089, “Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing date: March 9, 2023**

Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG) (an environmental group in Dorchester County) urges a favorable vote on HB1089.

On the Eastern Shore, we have many beaches that are littered with bottles of all types. In fact, plastic bottles are the third most frequently littered plastic in beach cleanups. In the Anacostia River watershed, beverage containers represent half of the collected trash. Beverage container deposit programs are a proven, highly effective mechanism for reducing litter.

Each year, \$5.2 billion beverage containers are sold in Maryland. Unfortunately, only 23% are recycled. That means that in Maryland, four billion beverage containers end up in landfills, on roadsides, in waterways, or incinerated annually.

This bill, if passed, will create the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund Program which will have a target of 90% recycling recovery rate. In addition, this bill will help us improve water quality and reduce greenhouse emissions.

I grew up in New York, and I am old enough to remember when we had a beverage container deposit program. It worked then and it can work now. Please vote favorably on HB1089.

Thanks!

Susan Olsen

Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth