



To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Economic Matters Committee

From: Ellen Valentino

Date: March 9, 2023

Re: HB 1089 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program
Challenges with this Legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on HB 1089. We do not support this legislation.

Our companies believe that to be effective, a collection system for recyclables needs to be convenient to consumers, efficient, financially stable, and help companies gain increased access to recycled material so it can be remade into new products. This legislation does not meet these pillars of a good recycling policy.

The policy conversation around recycling, plastic reduction and solid waste disposal is an important one and one taking place around the country. Our industry recognizes the seriousness of this issue and we welcome the opportunity to work with communities on ideas that get back more of our plastic bottles so they can be remade into new bottles.

In 2019 our industry made local and national news when announcing our 'Every Bottle Back' Initiative, which is investing in recycling infrastructure and community education nationally to improve the collection and remaking of recyclables.

We believe that **good data precedes good policy** and that is the first best step to determining how Maryland develops an EPR system or other recycling policies that will have measurable outcomes and make recycling equitable for all Marylanders regardless of where they live.

We support a study that will provide important data and information around the current county and municipal infrastructure, full cycle costs, the current processing of recyclables, and commodities being recycled. This is the first best step to develop a good comprehensive future solid waste and recycling policy to Maryland.

In closing, you have our commitment to be at the table and to participate in best practice discussions or a new direction conversation – particularly when talking about our packaging.

MARYLAND • DELAWARE • DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

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