

Hearing: March 9, 2023 1:00 pm

House Committee: Environment & Transportation

Chairman: Del Kumar Barve

Legislation: HB 1089 Benefits of the MD Beverage

Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Sponsors: Del.Terrasa & Edelson

Cosponsors Del Love, Feldmark, Ruth & Solomon

HB 1089- the MD Beverage Container Recycling Refund & Litter Reduction Program-SB 1089 will motivate reuse & recycle of beverage containers. The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports SB 1089. As people of faith, Unitarian Universalists recognize the interdependence of man and nature. Where nature is destroyed or corrupted, corrections must be made. Of all the bills submitted in this session on plastics, this is the most important one to pass immediately.

There are ten states that already have recycling refund bills. Two states-(Michigan and Oregon)-have achieved a 90 percent recycling rate with a 10 cent deposit bill. Maryland needs to join these other states in diminishing litter. Witness the huge number of single use plastic bottles & beverage containers that are seen floating in

our streams and rivers, lining our neighborhood roads and parks, blighting our oceans. The Recycling Refund Bill HB 1089 will substantially

- 1.improve water quality,
- 2.reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- 3.reduce energy use and
- 4.encourage investment in reusable beverage systems
- 5.Reduce container litter

HB 1089 must be passed. Maryland needs to join the ten other states who have passed this law. Thank you.

Environmental Justice Ministry
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church