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MAYOR

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HB 1089

March 9, 2023

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

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

POSITION: Support

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1089.

The bill establishes the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers. By providing the infrastructure for the stewardship of beverage containers, this bill supports local governments with meeting waste reduction goals and preventing post-consumer waste from entering the environment, especially our waterways. Beverage containers covered under the bill include glass, aluminum and plastic bottles.

The Baltimore City Office of Sustainability supports this bill as it aligns with a goal in the 2019 Sustainability Planⁱ to “investigate revising codes and/or creating ordinances to eliminate waste and maximize reuse of materials.” and to "Develop and promote legislation and policy at the City and State level to reduce pollution of our waterways, including restricting the use of pesticides and herbicides and reducing the use of single-use plastics (such as plastic bags and beverage bottles).

The MD General Assembly has specified a goal to achieve a 90% redemption rate in the bill, which would be about 5 billion single-use beverage containers. Though the exact number that would benefit Maryland is not known, this target will have significant impacts on Baltimore City's waste management approaches that divert and prevent waste holding the prospect of reducing the cost of litter and beverage containers collection, recycling and disposal currently posed on Baltimore City tax payers.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1089.

ⁱ <https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/plans/sustainability-plan/>