



March 6, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

Re: **OPPOSE** – **HB 1089** – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Beer Wholesalers Association (MBWA) we are writing in opposition to **HB 1089** which requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a beverage container deposit program by December 31, 2025.

The MBWA consists of 22 Maryland businesses employing over 1,400 Maryland citizens that are majority owned and operated generational family businesses. Our members are committed to recycling and reducing litter in Maryland. The policy discussions around recycling and solid waste disposal are an important one and are taking place here and around the country. We recognize the importance of the issue and are proud of the steps we have taken to recycle all the material in our warehouse and business and encourage our customers to do the same. We do not support a mandatory deposit program that would increase the price of products based on the premise that citizens would return these products instead of the convenience of residential and commercial single stream recycling. However, we know we need to do more and are willing to work with all stakeholders to enhance and improve programs that would be effective, convenient, efficient, and financially stable.

We respectfully request this legislation be rejected as this committee has done in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas G. Manis", is written over the typed name.

Nicholas G. Manis
Executive Director

CC: John Favazza