



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Hon. Delegate Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee, Chair
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 26, 2024

Dear Delegate Korman,

Thank you for your work in Annapolis on behalf of Montgomery County residents. We appreciate your partnership in our shared goal to forge a greener, more sustainable future for all. We are writing in **support of the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act, HB 735 / SB 642.**

Each year across Maryland, 5.2 billion beverage containers are sold but only 23% of those plastic bottles are recycled - the remaining 4 billion containers are left in landfills, as litter, or are incinerated. Annual stormwater reports for Montgomery County indicate that close to 40% of all waste in our waterways are made up of plastic bottles.

HB 735 would incentivize residents to recycle more plastic bottles and ensure that plastic bottles sold in Maryland are made with a higher percentage of recycled materials. It would also reduce incineration of wasted beverage containers and divert them from landfills, as the County continues to move away from incineration to embrace the principles of zero waste.

Passing HB 735 would follow ten states that have already implemented similar legislation, the earliest enacted in 1970. Those programs with a 10-cent deposit per container have achieved 90% recycling rates and reductions in beverage container litter on land and in waterways.

We believe that this program would greatly benefit Montgomery County's efforts to divert waste from the Dickerson incinerator and prevent litter from reaching our waterways. Please support HB 735 to ensure that Maryland and Montgomery County remain national leaders in environmental stewardship and waste reduction.

Sincerely,

Evan Glass
Chair, Transportation and Environment Committee

Marilyn Balcombe
Councilmember, District 2

Kate Stewart
Councilmember, District 4