



To: House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Economic Matters Committee

From: Tiffany Harvey
Jenna Sublett

Date: February 28, 2024

Re: HB 735 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program
Challenges with this Legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on HB 735. 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.

Last year the MD Assembly passed [SB 222](#) *Environment – Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment and Producer Responsibility for Packaging Materials*. Two weeks ago, MDE released the RFP for the recycling needs assessment. We look forward to the needs assessment report. This report will be key in determining the next best step for recycling policies that have measurable outcomes and are equitable for all.

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.

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