



February 28, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, 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 735** – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Beer Wholesalers Association (MBWA) we are writing in opposition to **HB 735** which requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a beverage container deposit program.

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 important ones 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.

In the 2023 legislative session, SB 222 Environment – Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment and Producer Responsibility of Packaging Materials was passed. MDE just released the RFP for the recycling assessment, and we are interested in reviewing that report prior to determining the next steps for recycling policies.

We appreciate meeting with Delegate Terrasa staff and other advocates prior to the hearing and looking forward to further discussions with all stakeholders to enhance and improve programs that would be effective, convenient, efficient, and financially stable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas G. Manis".

Nicholas G. Manis
Executive Director

CC: John Favazza