



February 26, 2024

Hon. Marc Korman, Chair
Hon. Regina Boyce, Vice-Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and Committee members,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (HB 735), also known as the Maryland Bottle Bill. I am Dr. Ernest Murphy, Managing Member of Hospitality Development Group, LLC which owns and operates Courtyard by Marriott in Bowie, Maryland, TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Bowie, Maryland and TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Annapolis Junction, Maryland.

I support this bill because littered beverage containers are bad for hospitality businesses like mine and bad for the environment. Littered beverage containers on Maryland's beaches, in its waterways, in Baltimore Harbor, and in the Chesapeake Bay are harmful to the state's recreation and tourism. Who would come to Maryland to fish on a river or a lake with beverage containers floating around them? Who would want to canoe down a river with beverage containers snagged on the shoreline? We don't want our customers to encounter littered beverage containers in our parking lots and on our premises.

Beverage container deposit laws are a proven, highly effective policy that will reduce litter and recover used beverage containers across the state. A small deposit would be added to the price of beverage containers sold in the state, and refunded when the empty containers are returned for recycling. This provides the incentive for the public not to leave beverage containers in the environment, and to pick them up for a refund when they're found. Ten U.S. states, covering about 90 million people, have longstanding, successful programs. Dozens of countries across the globe have adopted or are planning to adopt these laws to prevent litter and plastic pollution.


There are many other economic and environmental benefits of the Maryland Bottle Bill. It will divert about 200,000 tons of beverage containers from the waste stream annually, including about 2 billion plastic bottles that pollute our waterways and harm marine life. It will capture 90% of beverage containers for recycling, provide clean recycled materials for making new containers, reduce costs for local governments, create jobs, and support development of reusable beverage containers. By reducing the production of new cans and bottles from virgin materials, the additional recycling from this program would eliminate 195,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent annually, the equivalent of removing the emissions of 42,000 cars.

These benefits will be achieved with little or no inconvenience to my business. The deposits we pay for covered beverage containers will be refunded when the stewardship organization picks up our empties for recycling. In addition, we will receive a small, per-

container material handling benefit for returning them. We may even realize savings in lower costs for trash and recycling pick-up.

Please support the Maryland Bottle Bill! It's good for business and good for the planet!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. M. M." or similar, written in a cursive style.