



February 12, 2025

**To: Maryland House Economic Matters Committee
Re: HB 639 Sports Venues - Reusable Beverage Containers - Use During Sporting Events
Support**

Maryland Recycling Network members are county and municipal government recycling managers, private sector recyclers, non-profit recyclers and citizens who support recycling. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the county and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We support HB 639 and thank Delegate for introducing it

Reuse is the best way to manage many of the products we use on a daily basis. Refillable water containers are an excellent example of successful reuse. HB639 requires private and public sports venue operators to allow their patrons to bring into their venues empty aluminum or stainless steel refillable water containers. This is waste reduction legislation at its best.

In testimony before the NYC Council, Allen Hershkowitz, Environmental Advisor to the National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer, the New York Yankees, the LA Clippers and Chair of Sport and Sustainability International, a global sport and sustainability non-profit, noted that allowing the use of non-glass refillable containers at sports venues is a growing trend throughout the world. He stressed the benefits of allowing fans to rehydrate conveniently and quickly from venue water fountains, especially given the increasingly hot weather at outdoor summer athletic events. We all know it can get warm in Maryland in July and August in particular.

HB 639 is a win for Maryland's environment! We urge speedy passage of this bill. Summer is coming.

The Maryland Recycling Network is a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in recycling and waste reduction. Please do not hesitate to contact us via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Chaz Miller
Chair, MRN Legislative Committee

Maryland Recycling Network
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