



HB 639 Sports Venues - Reusable Beverage Containers - Use During Sporting Events

Date: February 12, 2025

Position: Support

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

HB 639 would require owners of sports venues to allow individuals to bring and use a reusable beverage container to the venue during a professional or collegiate sporting event.

We enthusiastically support the goal of reducing plastic waste and making it easier for Marylanders to use reusable water bottles. HB639 furthers our work toward this goal by encouraging the transition from single-use plastics to reusable and durable alternatives while on the go.

According to the OECD, global **production of plastic is projected to triple by 2060**. One of the key drivers of the increase is packaging – including single use plastic bottles. HB 639 increases opportunities and options for Marylanders to reduce plastic pollution and make sustainable choices in more venues, potentially eliminating thousands of plastic bottles from consumption and disposal each year.

Marylanders already carry reusable water bottles to the many places in which they work, learn, travel, and recreate. Let's make carrying reusables the norm. HB 639 supports this transition from single-use plastic consumption, and we urge a favorable report.

We commend and thank Delegate Ruth and co-sponsors for initiating this proposal.

Contact: Kelly Doordan (kelly@trashfreemaryland.org), Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland

Trash Free Maryland

Blue Water Baltimore

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

National Aquarium

Little Falls Watershed Alliance

Clean Water Action