

STATEMENT OF  
**ERIC E. STERLING, J.D.<sup>1</sup>**  
SUBMITTED TO  
THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
HON. MARC KORMAN, CHAIR  
HON. REGINA T. BOYCE, VICE CHAIR  
FEBRUARY 14, 2025

**IN SUPPORT OF  
HB232  
Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Honorable Delegates, thank you for reading my brief statement.

I strongly support of HB232 because I believe it will reduce the volume of beverage container litter that plagues our environment. I commend Delegate Terrasa, my District 18 Delegate Kaufman and Senator Brooks for their leadership in sponsoring this bill and SB346.

When I was a kid and started hiking in the 1960s, I started picking up the litter along the trail. In recent years, I have been a volunteer trail maintainer for a stretch of the Cabin John Trail in Montgomery County as a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. For many years, I have been using a mechanical picker and carry a strong reusable bag. I pick up litter every time I walk my dog or go for a walk or a hike – multiple times a day.

Every week, I pick up 20 to 30 bottles and cans that I spot that are thrown on the yards, in the woods, along the streams, in the gutter, around playgrounds, ball fields, schools, churches, and parking lots in my neighborhood. Often, I have too many to carry home to my recycling bin and I put them in a trash can. I walk along Rock Creek every day and see countless bottles and cans floating; gathered upstream of a tree fallen across the creek.

I believe this bill will significantly reduce the litter and will result in a significant recycling of aluminum and glass.

**I urge a favorable report.**

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<sup>1</sup> Eric E. Sterling has lived in Maryland 33 years and in the 18<sup>th</sup> legislative district over 27 years. He has tried to bicycle across the United States, led wilderness canoe trips in Maine for three summers, and led or co-led hiking trips in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Switzerland, and Italy. He is a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Sierra Club, the Rock Creek Conservancy, Nature Forward, Hosteling International and other outdoors and environmental organizations. He is active with Bethesda Friends Meeting and is joining with Quaker Voice of Maryland in supporting these bills.