



Tuesday, February 4, 2025

THE TOWN OF BRENTWOOD SUPPORTS HB0232/SB0346 MARYLAND BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING REFUND AND LITTER REDUCTION PROGRAM.

For the Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee; Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee; Senator Augustine; Delegates Fennell and Ivey.

The Town of Brentwood urges you to support HB 232/SB 346, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, also known as the Maryland Bottle Bill.

This legislation would reduce plastic pollution and litter, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs through a beverage container deposit program in Maryland with a 10- or 15-cent refundable deposit on metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers, depending on container size.

About 5.5 billion beverage containers are sold annually in Maryland. Despite the widespread availability of curbside collection of recyclables and public recycling receptacles, only about a quarter of the containers (25%) are captured for recycling. Four billion containers a year, 2.6 billion of which are plastic, are left in the environment – in landfills, roadsides, waterways – or incinerated. According to the Anacostia Watershed Society, beverage containers are about half of the trash by volume in the watershed's trash traps.

Humans are being exposed to both plastic particles and chemical additives being released from plastic debris according to Environmental Science and Technology (2016). The material is fragmenting, leaching, and spreading throughout the biosphere, including indoor and outdoor air, soil, and water systems. Microplastics are ingested by marine life, injuring, and killing fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. Consumers who meet their recommended water intake through bottled sources may be ingesting an additional 90000 microplastics annually, compared to 4000 microplastics for those who consume only tap water.

The objective of this program is to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution. It would add a refundable deposit to the purchase of beverage containers. The deposit is fully refunded when the empty containers are returned to a convenient retailer or other redemption point. The program would be financed and implemented by beverage





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producers through a nonprofit beverage container stewardship organization, not by the Town or its residents. The Maryland Department of the Environment would establish and oversee the organization with an advisory council providing support. This program would benefit our residents by incentivizing the recycling of plastics; reducing the amount of municipal solid waste that the county must collect and process; and redirecting litter from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, our parks, and our streets. It also directly supports the state, county, and Brentwood Climate Action Plans.

Programs like this have been operating in 10 U.S. states for decades and are the most effective policy for reducing beverage container litter. With a 10-cent deposit on most containers, it could capture 90% of beverage containers sold in the state annually, diverting an additional 3.6 billion beverage containers annually from landfills, incinerators, and the environment, reducing pollution from littered plastic bottles that break down in the environment and get washed into the Chesapeake Bay. Recent polling has found that more than 90% of Maryland's voting public would support the Bottle Bill.

We urge you to support HB 232/SB 346 to create savings for municipalities and local taxpayers, provide cleaner parks and waterways, and reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution.

Sincerely,

Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor

BCC Council

Vice Mayor Quianna Taylor

Council Member Marcus Monroe

Council Member Jerry Burgess

Council Member Lauren Rauk

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