

Delegate Marc Korman, Environment and Transportation Chair

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

This program aims to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution. It would add a small 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 producers through a nonprofit Stewardship Organization, not by the City or its residents. The Maryland Department of the Environment will provide strong oversight.

The Town of Thurmont was the first municipality in Frederick County to start a recycling program for our residents. We learned early on the value of removing recyclable material for our waste stream saving almost 25% in tipping fees in the first year alone. Our residents continue to recycle and are committed to stopping waste wherever possible.

This program would benefit our residents by reducing unsightly litter, increasing recycling, and reducing the amount of municipal solid waste that the City must collect and process. [Add here any estimate of tonnage diverted, or savings in tipping fees and litter cleanup, if available.] The City would not be required to implement or enforce the program, but has the option to set up its own redemption center and receive a handling fee per container to finance it, paid for by the Stewardship Organization.

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


Sincerely,

John A. Kinnaid, Mayor
Town of Thurmont
615 East Main Street
Thurmont, MD 21788