



## City of Cambridge

410 Academy Street, Cambridge, MD – P.O. Box 255  
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February 11, 2025

The Honorable County Council of Dorchester County

Dear Councilmembers:

The City of Cambridge 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.


The objective of this program is 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.

Programs like this have been operating in 10 states for decades and are the most effective policy for reducing beverage container litter. With a 10-cent deposit on most containers, it would capture 90% of beverage containers sold in the State of Maryland 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.

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. 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 for the purposes of reducing beverage container litter and plastic pollution, providing cleaner parks and waterways, and creating savings for municipalities and local taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Signed by:  
  
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Lajan Cephas  
Mayor, City of Cambridge