

February 12, 2025

Delegate Terrasa
Environment and Transportation Committee
217 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 232 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Delegate Terrasa and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

As a resident and eco-friendly business owner in Montgomery County, Maryland, I, Lindsey Turnbull, am writing to ask for your support of HB 232 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

The Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program would increase recycling programs and reduce litter and plastic pollution by incentivizing recycling, by placing a refundable deposit on beverage containers sold in the state. that can be returned when the bottle or can is returned. This bill creates a fund that will also support counties across the state to implement recycling plans, including electronics recycling, pain, newsprint, and phone books.

As the owner of a small business that focuses on reducing plastic usage and waste, it is incredibly disheartening to see plastic and other waste along our state's roads, in our parks, on our hiking trails, and in our communities. This litter is harmful to residents as well as wildlife. While Montgomery County has reliable recycling collection, it is simply not enough to encourage proper disposal of bottles and cans.

Research shows that bottle bills incentivize people to return bottles and cans they have used, as well as encourage people to pick up littered bottles and cans in their neighborhood. Similar bills have reduced container litter from 69% to 84%- meaning a cleaner, healthier Maryland. Additionally, increasing recycled content in bottles over creating new plastics via implementing a deposit program is the equivalent of saving the energy needed to power 8,600 homes annually, according to the Container Recycling Institute. Furthermore, bottle bills create jobs for those who collect, sort, and transport containers for recycling, adding to our state's economy and spending power.

Overall, I believe the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program will add jobs to the state while increasing our recycling rate, making the state more beautiful and more economically prosperous.

I urge a favorable report on HB 232.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Turnbull
Owner, From Here to Home Essentials

