



Indivisible Worcester Maryland

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Testimony for Maryland State Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on SB 342, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, also known as the Maryland Bottle Bill

Indivisible Worcester MD strongly supports SB 342, 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 Maryland residents. The Maryland Department of the Environment will provide strong oversight.

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 would 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 SB 342, to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution, provide cleaner parks and waterways, and create savings for municipalities and local taxpayers.

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