

February 6, 2026

To: Sen. Brian Feldman, Chair, and Sen Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

I am presenting written testimony for your consideration on SB 342, (Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program) which I support and are advocating for passage. Since 2012 I have been weighing the litter, I pick up on my daily dog walk in my neighborhood, which encompasses several streets in the Seabrook Estates and Glenn Estates developments in the Lanham/Seabrook section of Prince George's County. The walk usually takes me an hour following the same route every day. In 2025 I picked up 1,190 lbs. of litter, a 24% increase from 2024. Of this 788 lbs. (66%) were potentially recyclable and the remaining 402 lbs. were landfill trash.

Up until 2024 my data is based on the weight of what I collect which has some drawn backs in impressing on people exactly how much litter is being generated. After last year's attempt at passing a bottle bill failed, I thought that I might be able to do more with my trash pickups to help support passage of a bill this year. Observationally most of the potential recyclables collected are beverage bottles that would be covered under the bill. Starting the last week in April 2024 to help provide more quantitative data to support another bill's passage, I began counting how many bottles that would be covered by the proposed legislation that I was finding on my walks. The counts for the last eight months of 2024 were 2,056 plastic bottles, 234 metal cans, and 319 glass bottles. In 2025 with a full 12 months of collection, I collected a total of 3,486 plastic bottles, 1,403 metal cans, and 740 glass bottles found in the environment in my small section of the state is considerable (keep in mind this is a daily count from the same route each day).

A very effective solution to reduce the bottles is being considered again in this year's legislation session, the proposed Beverage Container Recycling Refund & Litter Reduction Program, SB 342. Similar programs exist in ten states and have proven to result in significant reductions (2/3rds) in the numbers of beverage containers littered no additional cost to local government. It is legislation that needs to pass. We are spending far too much trying to clean up the mess that they make in our communities. I urge you to pass this bill reducing this litter disgracing our state.

Sincerely,

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