



**MARYLAND  
WINE**

TO: EEE, E&T and ECM Committees

FROM: Maryland Wineries Association

DATE: February 10, 2026

RE: Letter of concern regarding SB 342/ HB331

---

Chairs Feldman, Korman, Valderrama and Committee members,

The Maryland Wineries Association (MWA) oppose SB 342/HB 331 which requires the creation of a Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

The Maryland Wineries Association consists of eighty plus Maryland businesses that create 25,300 jobs across the state. Maryland wineries are destinations that drive tourism, business and tax dollars to the State and localities, contributing \$495,780,000 to State and Local taxes in 2025.

Maryland wineries are, and have long been, effective stewards of the environment and their land. They are also supporters of the green economy, but this bill does not achieve the positive environmental goals it seeks, and it imposes significant physical and financial costs on Maryland wineries.

Maryland wineries are faced with a dilemma: glass bottles are the best way to store, serve and sell wine, but unfortunately glass bottles are notoriously difficult to recycle. We are currently unable to effectively recycle our glass bottles, and the infrastructure does not exist in Maryland to recycle these bottles. If this bill goes into effect, we will be forced to collect bottles that cannot be recycled in Maryland or in the surrounding states. The legislation will impose a burden on us with no benefit to Maryland's environmental goals.

Over the past several years MWA has proactively worked to attract businesses to the State that can clean AND reuse glass bottles. Unfortunately, we have not yet achieved that goal. In order to achieve the goals of this bill, the infrastructure for recycling glass bottles needs to exist and that infrastructure does not exist today. We continue to look for options like this that create a new business in Maryland, reduce the amount of glass in our waste stream, and support our state's environmental goals.

Accordingly, while we agree with the goals that this bill seeks to achieve, we must respectfully oppose the bill due to the inadequate infrastructure that exists and the burden it will impose on our members.

Sincerely,

Janna Howley, Executive Director

**MARYLAND WINERIES ASSOCIATION**  
*Representing Maryland's Wine Industry Since 1984*

---

1783 Forest Drive, #343 • Annapolis, MD 21401 • [www.MarylandWine.com](http://www.MarylandWine.com)