

**Favorable Report: SB0342 Quaker Voice of Maryland**

## **Quaker Voice of Maryland**

TO: Chair Feldman and Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

FROM: John McKusick, Quaker Voice of Maryland

DATE: February 6, 2026

Quaker Voice of Maryland, an advocacy group representing Quakers throughout Maryland, strongly supports SB0342 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

Thank you, Chairman Feldman, for the opportunity to testify, and thank you, Senator Brooks for sponsoring this legislation. My name is John McKusick and I am writing on behalf of Quaker Voice of Maryland to urge your support of SB0342. I reside in District 43. I retired from a career in student services at Towson University in 2017 after working for ten years at CCBC. I have been a volunteer for environmental causes for much of my adult life.

As a regular volunteer with environmental organizations like Blue Water Baltimore, I have worked on many stream cleanup projects that collected large quantities of plastic, metal, and glass. It is a feel-good job that delivers the satisfaction one anticipates from completing a useful community supporting activity. However, that good feeling doesn't last long when behaviors don't change and the site is quickly recontaminated.

This is why I love SB0342, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. Beverage container deposit programs are a proven, highly effective policy to recover used beverage containers and reduce litter. They are simple, straightforward, and understandable in design and structure. The bill's goals include a ninety percent redemption rate! To me, that means I will be picking up less plastic, metal, and glass in my neighborhood streams. Our waterways will be less littered and much healthier as a result.

We represent Quakers throughout Maryland to advocate for state-level policies based on testimonies of peace, equality, and stewardship. We are committed to both pragmatic and spiritual approaches to "seeking a world renewed". A Maryland bottle bill would be an effective way to care for the earth. **We urge a favorable report for SB0342.**

Sincerely,

John McKusick

Quaker Voice of Maryland

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