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Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

We are writing to express our strong support for the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (SB342), a crucial piece of legislation that promises to have a significant positive impact on our environment and communities. As concerned citizens committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, we believe that the Maryland Bottle Bill represents a vital step towards a cleaner, greener future for our state.

The Maryland Bottle Bill, which proposes a deposit-return system for beverage containers, has proven successful in numerous other states across the country. This system incentivizes the recycling of bottles and cans by offering a small refund for each container returned, ultimately reducing litter, conserving resources, and decreasing the burden on our landfills.

Implementing the Bottle Bill in Maryland would yield numerous benefits:

Environmental Impact

By encouraging the recycling of beverage containers, the bill would significantly reduce the amount of litter in our cities, parks, and waterways. This initiative would help protect wildlife and preserve the natural beauty of our state. Additionally, recycling reduces the need for raw materials, thereby conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic Advantages

The deposit-return system would create new jobs in the recycling and processing industries, boosting our local economy. Furthermore, the reduction in litter would decrease the costs associated with cleanup efforts, allowing municipalities to allocate resources to other pressing needs.

Community Engagement

The Bottle Bill fosters a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness among residents. By participating in the deposit-return system, individuals of all ages can contribute to a collective effort to protect our environment. This engagement can lead to broader support for other sustainability initiatives and a stronger sense of community.

In conclusion the Maryland Bottle Bill is a forward-thinking and effective solution to address the pressing issue of waste management and environmental conservation. We urge you to support this legislation and help pave the way for a cleaner, healthier Maryland. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for our environment and future generations.

Please add this testimony to the witness list for SB342 heard by the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on February 10th, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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