

Testimony for SB 0342
Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction
Program
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

My name is Debbie Gousha and I am writing to express my strong support for SB 0342 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. This program if enacted institutes a beverage container deposit program that would create a 10 to 15 cent refundable deposit on glass, metal, and plastic beverage containers. The deposit would be refunded to the customer when the container is returned for recycling.

The cost for this program would be financed by the beverage producers and would save money for local governments who have been forced to bear the costs of recycling, landfilling, or incinerating the increasing number of non-refundable beverage containers.

“Bottle bills,” have proven to be very successful in reducing litter in other states that have adopted these policies to recover used beverage containers. Currently only 25% of containers sold in the state are recycled, but it is estimated that by adopting this policy Maryland could increase this rate to over 90%.

Please support this common-sense approach to reduce litter and save money for taxpayers and our local governments!