



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Brian J Feldman and members of Education, Energy, and Environmental Committee

RE: SB342 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction program

Position: Unfavorable

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations, convenience stores, and repair facilities across the state as a non-profit trade group established in 1937.

I know sponsors have good intentions and think this bill will be self-funded and eventually it might, but that is a way down the road where this bill to pass. Start-up and MDE cost and plus personal to administer, vetting of the process and vendors to prevent fraud in a program that would be susceptible to fraud. That is just at Maryland's end of the program.

Consumers will pay more for their favorite drink and many of the elderly, non-driving, busy consumers purchase beverages online for delivery, will these same companies that deliver pick up and pay consumer for the overcharge on containers. Consumers are getting beat up badly on groceries and drinks currently and this will only add to that.

Retailers will have to have employees collect containers or empty self-service reverse vending machines and store bottles. Either way retailers are giving away valuable floor space, cleaning an unsanitary mess up as bottles managed in store. Retailer collecting on extra money they paid for product and money they paid in refund to consumers. One big bill, what could go wrong?

What experience does the Chesapeake Bay Trust have in running a program of epic proportions, effects every person and Every corner of the state?

We have county recycling centers now and I think by enhancing what we already have, it would be a cost-effective way to accomplish recycling goals.

We ask for unfavorable vote SB342

Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net