

Hearing before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
February 10, 2026

Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on
SB 342, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Sirs,

MCCH would like to express its strong support for the passage of House Bill 232, Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, the “Bottle Bill.” I co-lead a group that picks up litter four times a year in the same area around a gas station in Frederick, Md. We pick up at least six 30-gallon bags full of trash every time. Most of it is drink containers. These are a wasted resource and add to carbon dioxide production, warming our planet. I say “wasted resource” because they can be recycled into usable containers again. If our team didn’t pick them up, they would continue to pollute the land and our precious water.

Enacting this bill will protect land, air and water. It will also:

- Capture 3.6 billion additional beverage containers annually, including 2.3 billion plastic bottles, thereby increasing the rate of recycling in the state from 25 percent of containers to more than 90 percent.
- Increase the availability of high-quality recycled feedstock, as the program under this bill is projected to generate annually an additional 13,328 tons of aluminum, 47,665 tons of PET plastic, 7,847 tons of HDPE plastic, and 159,397 tons of glass to be recycled into new containers.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions—231,707 metric tons of CO₂-equivalent air emissions would be eliminated each year, as a result of not having to produce new cans and bottles from virgin materials. This is comparable to removing the emissions of over 50,000 cars.
- Benefit taxpayers and local governments, as they currently pay for disposal of beverage containers in our landfills and incinerators. These costs will be reduced because beverage containers will be diverted from landfills and incinerators. Fees from beverage producers, revenue from the sale of raw materials, unclaimed deposits, and penalties will finance the costs of collection and processing of beverage containers by a nonprofit Beverage Container Stewardship Organization, not by local governments.

- Create jobs through investments in new refillable and reusable beverage container systems. The recycling generated by a deposit program creates five times as many jobs as landfilling or incineration.¹

At one time Maryland had a bottle refund program. I used to accompany my parents to the store where we collected our deposits on bottles. Now is the time to bring back the bottle bill and begin to realize the environmental, health, economic, and cultural benefits it will bring.

For these reasons I strongly urge your support for this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my views and my respectful request for a favorable report on House Bill 232.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bodine
8120 Overlook Dr
Frederick, Md 21702

¹ Maryland Sierra Club, “Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill! HB 331/SB 342” [Fact Sheet], 2026.

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