

FAV – SB342: MD Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Bill Title:

Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (**SB342**, HB331)

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 6, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee,

My name is Molly Finch and I am a resident of Baltimore, home of the Trash Wheel family. The trash wheels of Baltimore were designed to capture litter flowing into the Baltimore Inner Harbor and out into the Patapsco River from smaller tributaries. All the litter that is captured is regularly counted to get a sense of what litter is coming into the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

Beverage bottle containers are one of the top types of litter that is collected by the Baltimore trash wheels. This means a large quantity of plastic bottles are not making to a trash or recycling can but have become litter and have made their way out to the river, heading to the Bay. This tells me our current trash and recycling system is not enough, and we need an alternative incentive to get bottles off that Baltimore trash wheel top litter list. **For this reason, I urge a favorable report on SB346. Maryland needs a bottle bill!**

You can learn more about trash wheel data on the trash wheel website:

<https://www.mrtrashwheel.com/trash-interception>

Sincerely,

Molly Finch
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