



ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER®

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February 6th, 2026

Anacostia Riverkeeper Supports the Maryland Bottle Bill, formally SB342, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

The Anacostia River is frequently referred to as DC's river, but five-sixths of the watershed is in Maryland, including significant portions of Montgomery and Prince George's County and a significant portion of the state's residents. Litter is often invisible because it is either out of sight in a storm drain or in a creek where not many people pass by it, but it has also become so ubiquitous in Maryland that many residents walk by significant litter every day and have ceased to note the litter as they do so. Unfortunately it is still visible and it is still a blight on many Maryland communities. It also blights many of Maryland's waterways where it presents a lethal risk to wildlife and a constant detriment to the enjoyment of Marylanders recreating outdoors. Litter is also a constant burden on the economies of local municipalities across Maryland as choices made by private companies become unfunded mandates to pick up their long-lasting trash. Of all the types of litter that we remove and record via trash traps and volunteer cleanups in Maryland, beverage containers are the single largest category across different types of cleanup. For instance, a series of small community-led cleanups this past year across Montgomery County resulted in this breakout of litter by percentage weight: 19% plastic bottles, 11% aluminum cans, 34% glass bottles; beverage containers alone were nearly two-thirds of all litter captured in that project. This may seem overwhelming, but it's also a political and environmental opportunity. This one law in Maryland could cut litter by half even if without reaching 100% compliance and every step closer to full compliance could yield many tons more trash prevented from ever polluting our neighborhoods, parks, streams, and rivers. **Please support and pass the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act.** We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the quoted project or any other context we can share from our decades of work in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, please reach out to me: trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org.

Sincerely,

Trey Sherard
Anacostia Riverkeeper

PS. Please see the graph of litter by type on the second page.



Litter Breakdown by Weight

