



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**Senate Bill SB0342 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund  
and Litter Reduction Program**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee – February 10, 2026  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of budget neutral bill **SB0342**. This bill would create a beverage container deposit program in Maryland with a 10- or 15-cent refundable deposit on metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers, and will achieve at least a 90% redemption rate, compared to the current average 25% recycling rate of containers.

Currently over 75% of our beverage containers end up in our environment where littered plastic beverage containers break down into small plastic particles -- microplastics and nanoplastics. We are all concerned about our health and our children's health, as every month we see more and more research and news articles written on the health impacts of the plastic pollution in our environment. We strongly support the bill SB0342 as the best solution to resolve the plastic litter problem, it is budget neutral and it will save money for local municipalities who currently spend their resources to clean up litter.

A recent poll<sup>1</sup> found overwhelming public support for the Maryland Bottle Bill: 91% of registered voters would support a program with refundable deposit, funded by beverage producers, not taxpayers. MDE's EPR program would not resolve the plastic litter on our roadways and in our environment. It would be beneficial for Maryland to implement both the beverage container deposit program and the EPR program, as many other jurisdictions have done<sup>2</sup>. Every year we wait, another four billion beverage containers enter our environment. We need to act now.

**We ask for your support for SB0342 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report. Thank you for your consideration!**

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler  
WDC Subcommittee on  
Environment and Energy

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy Chair

<sup>1</sup> "Maryland Voters Express Overwhelming Support for a Beverage Container Deposit Program to Reduce Litter and Plastic Pollution, New Poll Shows" - Sierra Club Maryland Chapter - January 22, 2025 <https://bit.ly/3ZGHOj4>

<sup>2</sup> "The Status of EPR-PPP and DRS Around the World" May 2025, Container Recycling Institute [https://www.container-recycling.org/images/2025/CRI\\_EPR-DRS\\_Factsheet\\_May\\_21\\_2025.pdf](https://www.container-recycling.org/images/2025/CRI_EPR-DRS_Factsheet_May_21_2025.pdf)