



ANACOSTIA RIVERKEEPER®

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February 9th, 2026

Anacostia Riverkeeper Supports the Maryland Bottle Bill, formally HB331 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Five-sixths of the Anacostia River's watershed is Maryland, including major portions of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties wherein live many of the state's residents. Litter is often effectively invisible because it is either out of sight in a storm drain or in a creek where not many people pass by it, or because it has become so ubiquitous in Maryland that many residents walk by without noticing it anymore. 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 Marylanders' enjoyment of their outdoor resources. Litter is also a constant burden on the economies of local municipalities across Maryland - choices made by private companies become unfunded mandates to pick up their 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 all cleanups. 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 before 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 HB331 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.** We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the quoted project and to share any other context we can from our decades of work in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, please reach out to me via trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org.

Sincerely,

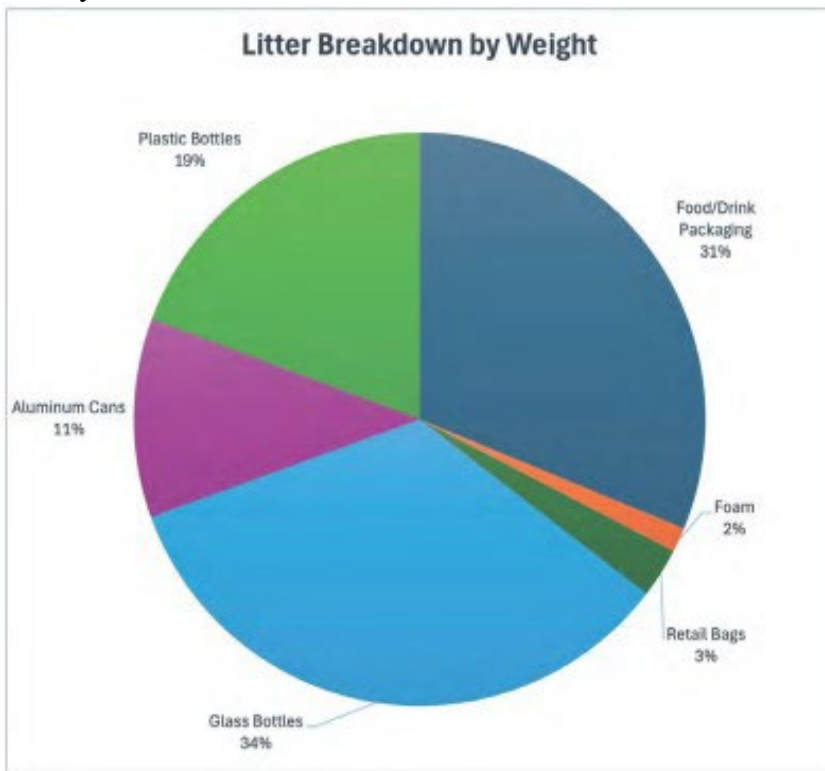
Trey Sherard
Anacostia Riverkeeper

PS. Please see the graph of litter by type as well as a typical litter sorting image on the second page.



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Montgomery County 2025



Prince George's County 2024

