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The Town of Cheverly
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January 30, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
The Honorable Michele Guyton, Vice-Chair
Maryland General Assembly
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 331 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Cheverly, we write in strong support of House Bill 331 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.

Cheverly is a community directly impacted by beverage container litter and plastic pollution. As a municipality within the Anacostia watershed, we experience firsthand the consequences of discarded beverage containers entering local streets, storm drains, and waterways. Beverage containers make up a significant portion of litter by volume in the Anacostia watershed, contributing to water quality degradation and increased cleanup demands for local governments.

Although curbside recycling is widely available, only approximately 25 percent of beverage containers sold in Maryland are currently recycled, leaving billions of containers each year to be landfilled, incinerated, or littered across communities like Cheverly. These materials create ongoing challenges for municipal public works operations, increase disposal and maintenance costs, and negatively affect neighborhood appearance and quality of life.

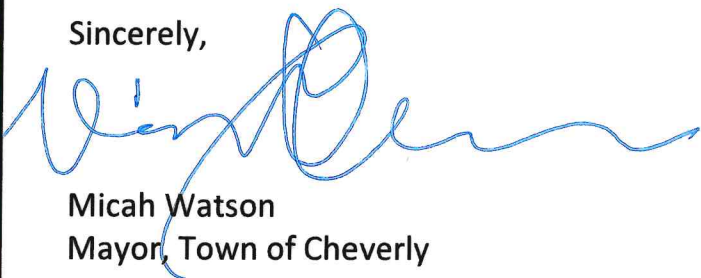
House Bill 331 provides a proven solution. Beverage container deposit programs implemented in other states have demonstrated the ability to increase recycling rates to over 90 percent, particularly where higher deposit values are in place. For Cheverly, this would result in fewer containers littering our streets and parks, reduced debris entering stormwater systems, and measurable improvements to local water quality.

Importantly, the program would also deliver cost savings for local governments, as beverage producers would finance the collection, processing, and recycling of beverage containers currently managed by municipalities. This shift would help reduce the financial burden on taxpayers while allowing towns like Cheverly to redirect limited resources to other essential services.

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Cheverly strongly believe that House Bill 331 represents a practical and effective approach to reducing litter, increasing recycling, protecting waterways, and supporting local governments. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 331.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on environmental protection and sustainability for Maryland's communities.

Sincerely,



Micah Watson
Mayor, Town of Cheverly

On behalf of the
Cheverly Mayor and Town Council

