

Greetings, Delegates Korman and Guyton, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment and Transportation Committee. I write to you as a concerned Marylander and a practicing Christian committed to the protection of God's creation, to urge you to support the Maryland Bottle Bill (HB0331). I was an active supporter of the 2025 bill, I was greatly encouraged by your committee's passage of the Bottle Bill.

The reasons for my support for the Bottle Bill remain the same: it will increase recycling rates from 23 to 90%, resulting in 3.6 billion fewer bottles entering our waterways and landfills; and the bill remains highly popular among Marylanders, with support from more than 90% of Maryland voters.

The 2026 version of the Bottle Bill has been amended to address concerns expressed by retailers and municipalities. Retailers with less than 3,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of sales space would be exempt from the "return-to-retailer" requirement. Other retailers will benefit from the improved technology now available in reverse vending machines and collective "bag drops". Local governments will not be required to operate or provide other resources for the establishment or operation of redemption facilities, and will be eligible for compensation for the first three years of the program for net loss of revenue to their waste systems that can be attributed to the program.

This year's Bottle Bill maintains the same objectives as last year's bill but has been revised to address stakeholder concerns. As a Maryland voter, I therefore urge you to once again support the Maryland Bottle Bill and encourage its passage by your committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Crump". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Crump

Parishioner, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda  
Residence: 817 Hillsboro Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902