



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Marc Korman and members of Environment and Transportation and members of Economics Matters Committee

RE: HB331 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction program

Position: Unfavorable

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations, convenience stores, and repair facilities across the state as a non-profit trade group established in 1937.

I know sponsors have good intentions and think this bill will be self-funded and eventually it might, but that is a way down the road were this bill to pass. Start-up and MDE cost and plus personal to administer, vetting of the process and vendors to prevent fraud in a program that would be susceptible to fraud. We should be skeptical of startup costs listed in fiscal and policy notes, this is a massive program and will have a large startup cost.

Consumers will pay more for their favorite beverage and elderly, non-driving, busy consumers purchase beverages online for delivery. Will these same companies that deliver, pick up, and pay consumers for the overcharge on containers? Consumers are getting beat up badly on groceries and beverages currently and this will only add to that. Consumers that can least afford added costs will hurt the most.

Retailers will have employees collect containers or empty self-service reverse vending machines and store containers, must dedicate valuable floor space, and will be cleaning up unsanitary conditions as bottles are received and stored. Retailers will have to upgrade software or buy new for POS and record keeping.

This is a program of epic proportions, affecting every person and every corner of the state, consumers and retailers will see added costs, costs a retailer cannot recover and consumer cannot afford.

We have county recycling centers now and I think by enhancing what we already have, it would be a cost-effective way to accomplish recycling goals.

We ask for unfavorable vote HB331.

Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net