

HB0331_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0331 - POSITION:
FAVORABLE

Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0331, **Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program**

Maryland has an ambitious program to reduce waste and pollution. This bill is one component of that strategy dealing specifically with reduction in plastic waste from the use of plastic bottles. It implements a program to deal with recycling those bottles and reduce litter from discarding them into the environment.

According to a report from the World Economic Forum discussing a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) “We Can Cut Plastic Pollution by 80% by 2040 – here’s how” reduction of plastic bottle usage is a component of achieving that goal.¹

NPR reported “The plastic problem isn't your fault, but you can be part of the solution.”² This forward-looking bill says that Maryland is listening and will become a model on adopting solutions to achieve our environmental goals.

This bill will affirm the goal of reducing plastic pollution by establishing the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce the litter, pollution, and costs associated with beverage containers. Additionally it adds guardrails to control what enters Maryland from plastic beverage producers by prohibiting a producer from selling, offering for sale, or distributing in or importing into the State a redeemable beverage container unless the producer is registered with the Department of the Environment, pays a certain fee, and is part of a beverage container stewardship organization; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0331.

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/06/reduce-plastic-pollution-unep/>

² <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/12/1015296355/zero-waste-single-use-plastic-trash-recycle>