

To: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
ENT Committee Members
Regarding: HB331 - SUPPORT
Date: February 11, 2026

We urge you to pass the 2026 Bottle Bill. When we saw our congregation's kitchen filling up with many containers, especially plastics (2017), we began to investigate. We learned that plastics harm not only us, but also myriad aquatic and terrestrial life forms. All phases of plastic are troubling, from fossil fuel extraction (plastics' base); to production's excessive energy use; to toxins leaching into the environment; and, finally, to the near impossibility of disposing of it responsibly after its too-brief useful life. We made a corporate decision to remove plastics.

Of course, we were not able to protect more than our property. We are, therefore, pleased to see the state of Maryland considering a reusable/returnable bottle bill to reduce waste (including plastic, glass and metal). As we Marylanders recycle only 1/4 of the 5.5 billion single-use beverage containers we purchase annually, your legislature can stop this waste at a meaningful scale.

If passed, the current proposed Bottle Bill is projected to reduce 90% of the burden of single-use containers on Maryland's environment and in our landfills. MIT researchers found that recycled plastic converted for reuse is as good as virgin plastic and that effective bottle recycling "need not be a federal program, but rather one where the implementation would be left up to the individual states."¹ We wholeheartedly support this practical reduction in waste. By joining 10 other states with similar bills, we can be a leading example for the remaining states. Thank you for your favorable consideration of the Bottle Bill.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Tobin, Clerk, Frederick Friends Meeting
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

¹ How to Increase the Rate of Plastics Recycling: David L. Chandler. MIT News, July 3, 2024