



Howard County Council

Deb Jung
Councilmember

District 4

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

February 9, 2026

HB 331
Deb Jung, Howard County Council
FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Environment and Transportation Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 331 Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. I am grateful to the sponsoring Delegates for introducing this much needed bill for reducing litter and pollution in Maryland.

Far too many of the more than 5 billion single-use beverage containers sold annually in Maryland are not disposed of properly. This program establishes a convenient reimbursement process for customers to redeem their beverage containers. The incentive program targets at least a 90 percent redemption rate of beverage containers within a few years of implementation. Moreover, we know these programs are effective. Ten states have already adopted their own bottle deposit container program. In states with these programs, their beverage container recycling rates far exceed Maryland's.

As a Councilmember in Howard County, I am only too aware of the negative impact of littering in our community. Complaints about littered roadways and streams frequently fill my Council inbox. Although our County and State crews do their best to address this ongoing problem, if this bill passes, we can begin taking action to change behavior and implement effective waste prevention.

This is a commonsense solution for reducing our waste and creating a sustainable environment for all. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 331.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deb Jung".

Deb Jung
Councilmember District 4