

To the Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee.

Re: Support HB 331 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Please add the attached testimony to the witness list for HB 331, heard by the ENT Committee on February 11, 2026.

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

This Aluminum Can

This can, this aluminum can has been on an incredible journey (pretend that you are holding an aluminum can in your hand).

It might have ended up in your refrigerator; and we all appreciate a nice cold beverage on a hot summer day.

Fields, farmland and forests have been cleared to mine bauxite ore that is needed to produce aluminum.

After the ore is mined, it is transported to a processing facility and refined into aluminum.

By not recycling this aluminum can, we are throwing away all of this effort, this natural resource, and **money!**

Aluminum can be recycled an infinite number of times. It is one of the easiest metals to recycle.

SB 342 will provide a small economic incentive, a deposit, to encourage the recycling of aluminum cans and beverage containers. Which is one of the best incentives to change someone's behavior.

The bill will help reduce litter, help to create a cleaner environment which includes our great Chesapeake Bay.

Let the journey of this aluminum beverage container continue.

Earlier, I had mentioned money.

Increasing the recycling rate will increase the supply of aluminum; and in most cases increasing the supply of a product or commodity will decrease the price (unless demand also increases).

And less money will be spent picking up beverage containers.

Increased recycling will mean that there will be more aluminum available to be used in manufacturing more aluminum cans, and many other products. Page 2 details some of the industries that use aluminum.

Sincerely,

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The following page and information was taken from The Aluminum Association website.

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Product Markets

Aluminum is all around us, making our everyday lives easier and more efficient. It's in all the usual places – in our aluminum foil, in the cars we drive and, in our soda, and beer cans. And aluminum is infinitely recyclable, lightweight yet strong and durable, energy efficient and sustainable.

But did you know that aluminum is also critical to many of our modern innovations?

Aluminum sent us to Mars, motors us to greater fuel- and cost-efficient vehicles, increases our buildings energy efficiency and facilitates our productivity through our iPads and laptops. Just to name a few – read on to find out all the innovative ways aluminum is the critical element to build our world.

Aircraft & Aerospace

From the Wright brothers' use of aluminum in their engine of their first biplane to NASA's use of an aluminum-lithium alloy in the Orion spacecraft—aluminum has created the potential for humans to fly both around the earth and into space.

Aluminum Cans

Aluminum cans are the infinitely recyclable and the most sustainable beverage package on the market. They chill quickly, provide a superior metal canvas to print on and, perhaps most important, protect the flavor and integrity of our favorite beverages.

Automotive

Aluminum offers the fastest, safest, most environmentally friendly and value-added way to increase vehicle performance, boost fuel efficiency, extend battery range and reduce emissions.

Building & Construction

Aluminum is recognized as one of the most energy efficient and sustainable construction materials. It's estimated that more than 60% of the aluminum used in buildings today comes from recycled material.

Electrical

Aluminum is the preferred material for electricity transmission and distribution uses. AA-8000 series aluminum alloy conductors have a great track record of 50 years of reliable field installations.

Electronics & Appliances

Home appliances and consumer technology—the washing machine, dryer, refrigerator and laptop—exist as they are today because of aluminum's light weight, structural strength and thermal characteristics.

Foil & Packaging

Foil's uses have grown over the past 100 years to a nearly endless count. From Christmas tree ornaments to spacecraft insulation, TV dinners to medicine packets—aluminum foil has improved both our products and our lives.

New & Innovative Markets

With aluminum in its second century of widespread use, new and innovative technologies continue to grow its market potential. Solar panel nanotechnology, aluminum-ion batteries and more will help open and grow new and innovative markets in the 21st century.