

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 5, 2021

Delegate and Committee Chair Barve
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB0099: Beverage Container Deposit Program

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing in support of HB0099: Beverage Container Deposit Program.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB0099, which forwards the 2019 Sustainability Plan's Waste and Recycling chapter by increasing the amount of trash diverted from landfills and incinerators to recycling programs (Strategy 1), and by maximizing reuse of materials (Strategy 3, Action 4). This is a key equity concern, as our incinerator contributes to asthma in overburdened neighborhoods. In addition, recycling, done right, can create good local jobs.

We urge the Committee to support HB0099.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Love