



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

Re: **OPPOSE** – **HB 99** - Beverage Container Deposit Program – Establishment and Advisory 3  
Commission

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Beer Wholesalers Association (MBWA) we are writing in opposition to **HB 99** which requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a beverage container deposit program by September 1, 2022.

The MBWA consists of 22 Maryland businesses employing over 1,400 Maryland citizens that are majority owned and operated generational family businesses. Our members are committed to recycling and reducing litter in Maryland. The policy discussions around recycling and solid waste disposal are an important one and are taking place here and around the country. We recognize the importance of the issue and are proud of the steps we have taken to recycle all the material in our warehouse and business and encourage our customers to do the same. We do not support a mandatory deposit program that would increase the price of products based on the premise that citizens would return these products instead of the convenience of residential and commercial single stream recycling. However, we know we need to do more.

We support HB 164 - Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development which received a favorable report from the committee. This legislation will promote the development of markets for recycled materials and products in the state. The bill will seek input from all interested parties to develop a comprehensive understanding of the programs, tools, training guides, and technologies available to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in the State. In our estimation this will provide Maryland a path in reaching its goals and objectives to increase recycling rates and reducing the waste stream in Maryland.

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We respectfully request this legislation be rejected as this committee has done in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Manis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas G. Manis  
Executive Director

CC: John Favazza