

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to request a favorable report on HB99 Bottle Bill.

Bottle bills (also known as container deposit laws) are a proven, sustainable method of capturing beverage bottles and cans for recycling. The refund value of the container (usually 5 or 10 cents) provides a monetary incentive to return the container for recycling.

- Supply recyclable materials for a high demand market.
- Conserve energy and natural resources
- Create new businesses and jobs.
- Reduce waste disposal costs.
- Reduce litter.
- Bottle bills have financial incentives for recycling.

Deposits on beverage containers were used for many decades by the beverage industry to ensure the return of their refillable bottles. Deposits work because they provide a financial incentive to recycle and a *disincentive* to litter.

Bottle bills are unique from litter taxes or publicly funded recycling programs in that the money that the buyer pays is returned to them when they recycle the container.

- Bottle bills have widespread support.

“The bottle bill has worked for 37 years because of its simplicity”.

- Bottle bills encourages Producer and Consumer Responsibility.

There are societal and environmental costs associated with the manufacturing, disposal, and recycling of beverage containers. The question for policymakers is “Who should pay these costs?” Is it fair to make the taxpayer who drinks nothing, but tap water pays for processing beverage containers they never used? Under traditional municipal recycling programs, that is exactly what happens. Bottle bills, on the other hand, shift these costs to the beverage manufacturers and the people who consume beverages.

- Bottle bills help the environment.

Beverage containers compose less than 6% [1] (by weight) of municipal solid waste, but the upstream environmental effects of container wasting are disproportionately high. For example, beverage containers account for 20% of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from replacing wasted containers with new containers made from virgin materials.[2] By increasing collection and recycling of these containers, bottle bills mitigate their negative environmental effects.

- Bottle bills produce high-quality recyclable materials.

Plastics recyclers report that in general, material from single-stream MRFs has a yield rate of about 68%–70%, compared to dual-stream systems which usually yield about 75%-78%. Bales of PET from deposit return systems generally have a yield rate of about 85%.

- Create more opportunities to recycle.

Deposits, because they do not depend on municipal recycling systems, also provide an opportunity to recycle away from the home, in public places (offices, malls, parks, stadiums, etc.) that have inadequate recycling opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natasha Shangold

8937 Skyrock Ct

Columbia, MD 21046