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TESTIMONY ON HB#0841 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Environment - Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction - Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0841, Environment - Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction - Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting

Maryland has an ambitious program to reduce waste and pollution. This bill is one component of that strategy dealing specifically with reduction in plastic waste from water in bottles. It implements a program to create water refilling stations to permit reuse of containers instead of discarding them into the environment.

According to a report from the World Economic Forum discussing a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) “We Can Cut Plastic Pollution by 80% by 2040 – here’s how” reduction of plastic bottle usage is a component of achieving that goal.¹

NPR reported “The plastic problem isn't your fault, but you can be part of the solution.”² This forward looking bill says that Maryland is listening and will become a model on adopting solutions to achieve our environmental goals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0841.

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/06/reduce-plastic-pollution-unep/>

² <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/12/1015296355/zero-waste-single-use-plastic-trash-recycle>