



**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB0841 - Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction - Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Dave Arndt, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0841. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB0841.

The bill would require that a water bottle filling station be installed in new construction for which a drinking water fountain is required under the current version of the international plumbing code or state or local law or regulation. It also would require the Department of the Environment (MDE) to gather data and identify alternative methods for providing drinking water. Furthermore, this bill requires the MDE to research and discover alternative solutions to our plastic water bottle usage issue and publish the findings, thus not only raising awareness, but actively providing solutions.

In Maryland, it is estimated that only 3% of all plastic bottles are recycled. They are treated as throwaways. The other 97% of plastic bottles end up in our landfills, incinerators or dumped into the environment. There are numerous other negative effects of plastic water bottles, from energy use in manufacturing to being a source of harmful chemicals such as PFAS and BPAs.

Many plastic water bottle users would prefer an alternative; however, many buildings don't provide any. Therefore, using your own water bottle may not be dependable or a convenient solution. This bill would make not only new buildings install water fillers, it would help set the expectation that all buildings should have this convenient and reliable source of water.

We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee for HB0841.

350MoCo  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
WISE