



To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Re: SB 394 (Statewide Container Recycling Refund Program)

The Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We support initiatives to increase recycling in Maryland. We also recognize the positive impact container deposit legislation has played in increasing recycling in other states, however, SB 394, as written, raises substantive questions about the impact of container deposits on existing recycling programs in Maryland. We are concerned that this new collection system could siphon valuable recyclables away from existing curbside collection programs and have an inadvertent negative impact on the revenues of those programs.

In addition, this legislation creates a unique system of county-operated redemption centers. Unfortunately, how this new system would work has not been adequately explained. This includes how the centers would be properly funded and operated and how they would interact with existing collection and processing programs.

Based on the information and modeling provided by proponents of this legislation, we conclude that the current proposal is not economically sustainable.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Peter Houstle at phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, 301-725-2508 or MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

We look forward to working with you to continue the strides we have all made to improve Maryland's recycling programs in a time-effective and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

Gemma Evans, MRN President
Recycling Coordinator
Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services

Maryland Recycling Network
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