



February 11, 2020

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters Committees
Re: HB 824 Beverage Container Deposit Program - Establishment and Advisory Commission**

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.

The Maryland Recycling Network strongly supports advancing recycling. However, we feel that while HB 824 may increase recycling of containers, the Bill has questionable implications for local jurisdictions, particularly the negative impact on existing curbside collection programs. These programs are likely to lose revenue as containers they would normally collect are diverted to deposit programs. Other concerns include the feasibility of Maryland specific redemption codes and cross state redemption policies. Maryland is a small state that is three miles wide at one point and residents of neighboring states will be tempted to redeem non-deposit bottles purchased in those states in Maryland. At a minimum, we would request that a representative of the Maryland Recycling Network be included on the Advisory Commission to help address the above concerns.

In light of these concerns, we do not feel we can actively support the bill at this time. 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 via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - 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- and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Houstle".

Peter M. Houstle
Executive Director