



Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers International Union

Bruce R. Smith
International President

Claude Beaudin
International Secretary-Treasurer

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Carter Conway and Committee Members:

On behalf of the more than 27,000 members of the Glass, Molders, Pottery International Union (GMP), I am writing to ask for your support and vote for SB 367, establishing the Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act. The GMP represents thousands of workers in the glass, molders, plastics, pottery, cast metals, fiberglass, defense, fine china, glass and plastic containers, insulation and sanitary-ware industries as well as workers in government, healthcare and a variety of other industries. The GMP is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

The GMP recognizes the importance of glass recycling and strongly supports beverage container recycling refund programs, which are the most effective way of collecting recycled glass suitable for re-melting into new containers.

Recycled glass is a critical manufacturing input for the manufacture of new glass food and beverage containers. The average glass bottle or jar contains roughly 33% recycled glass.

States with beverage container recovery refund programs in place, account for the highest beverage container recycling rates nationwide - often achieving recovery rates of over 80%.

Recycled glass purchased from states with container recovery refund programs constitute 65-80% of all recycled glass purchased by the glass container manufacturing industry nationwide.

Finally, these programs work in conjunction with existing single stream, or "one-bin" collection programs. Collectively, these programs result in the recycling of not only more beverage containers, but other types of recyclable materials as well.

Please support and vote for SB 367, a bill benefiting both the environment and the U.S. glass container manufacturing industry.

Sincerely,

Bruce R. Smith
International President

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