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March 10, 2010

House Environmental Matters Committee
Room 251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support HB 944, "Recycling-Bars and Restaurants-Beverage Containers"

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to join other conservation groups in urging your support of House Bill 944, "Recycling-Bars and Restaurants-Beverage Containers."

HB 944 will require owners of bars and restaurants to recycle their beverage containers, through a program established by the distributors or by a program of their own negotiation. According to Glass Packaging Institute, 18% of beverage containers are consumed on premises (in bars and restaurants), and here in Maryland the large majority of these containers are being disposed of in a landfill.

While Maryland's current recycling rate of 41% is certainly respectable this bill can only improve it and ultimately lead to a lesser need for future landfills. Additionally, the Maryland Climate Change Commission determined that increasing recycling is a viable and cost efficient way to meet Maryland's new goal of 25% decrease in green house gas emissions by 2020.

We wish to thank Delegate Neimann for his leadership and the committee for its consideration of this important matter. We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schwartz
Executive Director

For more than 30 years, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters has been the independent political voice for the environment in our state. Maryland LCV is dedicated to making environmental protection and restoration a top priority for Maryland's elected officials, appointed leaders, candidates and voters. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters advocates for sound conservation policies, works to get pro-environment candidates elected, and holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions.

