

Dear Senators and Co-chairs Kennedy and Miner, and Representative and Co-chair Demicco,

I support [HB 5618](#) concerning an increase in the handling fee for bottle redemption centers.

I oppose [SB 996](#) to eliminate the bottle deposit bill and replace it with a less effective program.

The bottle redemption fee has never been raised since its inception. We need to raise the fee, and expand it to all of the drinks that have become popular in the thirty years since the bottle bill was originally passed. This would include, at a minimum, juices, teas, sports drinks, wine, wine coolers and liquor.

This would help redemption centers maintain and modernize their equipment. More importantly, it would more strongly incentivize people to recycle their plastic bottles so that they don't end up as litter, polluting our streets and waterways.

With the environment under attack in the nation's capital, we have to double-down on our efforts to protect our environment.

Thank you for your interest in my opinion.

Gail White
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