



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007
(484) 885-8814 • anc2e@dc.gov

January 8, 2025

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.gov

RE: Support of DC Council to Establish a Bottle Return-Refund-Recycle Program

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

On January 6, 2025 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

WHEREAS, it is estimated by several non-profits that more than 617 million covered beverage containers are sold in the District of Columbia each year and it is estimated that

- Less than one quarter of these containers are recycled. Therefore, almost 464.5 million beverage containers sold annually in the District are not recycled.
- Approximately 55 percent of these containers are plastic bottles, nearly 30 percent are aluminum cans, and almost 15% are glass bottles.

WHEREAS, of the 464.5 million containers that are not recycled,

- Most are disposed of in public trash receptacles because there is no large-scale, convenient, public space recycling program.
- Many on-street trash receptacles provided by the District, National Park Service, and other entities, are of limited capacity, do not support recyclable items, and are not emptied frequently enough, resulting in unsightly overflow onto sidewalks, roadways, grassy areas and storm drains that discharge into waterways.

WHEREAS, a proven solution to beverage container litter is a Beverage Container Deposit Return (“Bottle Bill”) law.

- Bottle Bills reduce trash and boost recycling rates because of the deposit return incentive.

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1	Topher Mathews, District 2	Paul Maysak, District 3
Peter Sloniewsky, District 4	Mimsy Lindner, District 5	Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Daniel Chao, District 7	Knox Graham, District 8	

- Deposit return was created over a century ago by bottle, can, and beverage, manufacturers in order to reduce costs by repeatedly reusing already manufactured bottles and steel cans. For decades there were no specific laws compelling participation; however, the economic conditions provided a natural incentive for consumers to return their empties for a deposit refund.
- 10 states currently having Bottle Bill laws, including California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York and Oregon, account for 27% of the US population, yet it is estimated the same states account for over 50% of all bottles recycled in the United States.

WHEREAS, realizing significant reduction of beverage bottles / can litter in the District requires a consistent, convenient, ubiquitous recycling option. With a DC Bottle Bill

- Consumers would pay in the range of 10 cents per qualified beverage container at the time of purchase. The fee then could be refunded in full when the empties are returned to participating merchants, kiosks, or other redemption points. The form of repayment can be selectable by the consumer.
- Coverage of redemption points can be uniform and convenient, including for residents in communities historically underserved by food retailers.
- There must be adequate safeguards, administrative controls, and oversight, to detect and prevent abuse, fraud, or new or novel types of crimes.

WHEREAS, the District's 5 cent bag fee succeeded at dramatically reducing the number of plastic bags polluting our streets and waterways. ANC 2E requests that the Council of the District of Columbia initiate the legislative process to establish a Bottle Bill. ANC 2E further requests there be multiple opportunities for public discussion and input from stakeholders citywide to ensure the legislation identifies and addresses concerns and will provide the intended outcome.

Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Brooke Pinto, Councilmember, Ward 2

Brianne Nadeau, Chair of the Committee on Public Works and Operations, DC Council

Janeese Lewis George, Councilmember, Ward 4

Joanne Slaight, Presenter, 3RC for DC