

- Increased recycling. States with beverage container deposit laws have higher recycling rates than those that don't.
 - Reduced litter. Beverage container litter is reduced 70-84 percent, and total litter is reduced by a third to a half, when bottle deposit laws are adopted.
 - A well-designed deposit return scheme can realize net economic benefits for states.
 - Recycling plastic and aluminum bottles would reduce the need for virgin material, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Many major bottling companies, such as Nestles, have dropped their opposition to deposit return schemes. To meet recycling goals, they need access to high quality food grade rPET, and they see bottle deposit schemes as a way to do that.
2. Virginia should conduct a study of how effectively the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and local Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinances have preserved riparian buffers in the counties of Tidewater Virginia. Fairfax County's Little Hunting Creek Watershed Management Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2005, called for such an evaluation, as Action B1.4 (p.5-10): "Evaluate the enforcement and application of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, including the granting of waivers or exceptions, to determine if riparian buffers are being adequately preserved and protected." This evaluation has not been carried out. It would be beneficial to evaluate the adequacy of protection of riparian buffers not only in Fairfax County, but in all the Tidewater counties to which the law applies. Among the questions that should be addressed by such an evaluation are:
- a. Basic facts: How many requests for exceptions or waivers have been received, and how many were granted, for each county? How much riparian buffer area has been developed through waivers or exceptions? It would be useful to separately calculate the net loss of buffer area within the seaward 50' and within the landward 50' of the RPA.
 - b. How adequate is the information on which exception and waiver requests are decided? The state and county intend that decisions be based principally on Water Quality Impact Assessments prepared by the applicant or applicant's agent, yet WQIAs may lack information or contain inaccurate information. It would be useful to review a sample of actual WQIAs to determine if they are complete and accurate, and include information and analysis needed to determine impacts on water quality.
 - c. An exception to the requirements of the C'Bay Preservation Ordinance is supposed to be granted only if it is "not of substantial detriment to water quality" (among other criteria). Yet, even when a single

exception does not substantially harm water quality, the cumulative effect of multiple exceptions may very substantially harm water quality. How can or should decisions take into account the cumulative effects of multiple exceptions allowing development within the RPA?

- d. County designations of Resource Protection Areas do not take into account the effect of rising sea levels (which will affect RPAs in all of Tidewater Virginia), or of increasing storm intensity. How should the effects of climate change be taken into account when implementing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act or local ordinances?

An evaluation could usefully inform possible changes in the law or its implementation in Tidewater Virginia counties to improve its effectiveness and consistency.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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