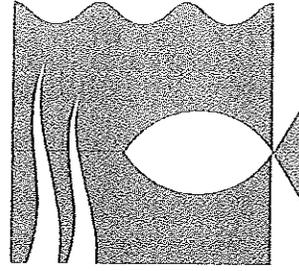


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



Save the Sound®

A program of
Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Testimony of Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Environment Committee**

***In support of S.B. No. 661, AN ACT EXPANDING THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE NONCARBONATED BEVERAGES***

Kierran R. Broatch, Volunteer & Outreach Associate

February 2, 2009

Save the Sound is a regional program dedicated to the restoration and protection of Long Island Sound; together with its parent organization, Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE"), a statewide non-profit environmental advocacy organization, it represents over 6,500 members. Since 1978, CFE has used law, science and education to improve Connecticut's environment.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

Save the Sound, a program of CFE, *supports* S.B. 661, An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Noncarbonated Beverages.

Serving as Connecticut's state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, coupled with our year-round Coastal Cleanup program, Save the Sound supported 66 beach and riverfront cleanups in 2008 alone. One of the most consistent types of marine debris our volunteers collect year in and year out is non-deposit, noncarbonated beverage containers. According to Ocean Conservancy's "*Pocket Guide to Marine Debris*", the decomposition rate for plastic beverage containers is 450 years!

Long Island Sound is one of the nation's great estuaries, a vital economic and recreational resource that provides habitat for diverse animal and plant life. With 10% of our country's population living within 50 miles of the Sound, pollution is one of the biggest issues threatening the health of the Sound and the plants and animals that live there.

If passed, S.B. 661 would significantly decrease the amount of plastic pollution found in Connecticut's waterways. The attached photos depict the amount of noncarbonated beverage containers found at just two 2008 Connecticut beach and riverfront cleanups. Take these piles of noncarbonated beverage containers and multiply it by the number of miles of beaches and riverfronts in Connecticut and you start to get the idea how severe of a pollution problem this is.

Non-deposit, noncarbonated beverage containers collected at
Cove Island Park, Stamford, CT on 8/21/08.



Non-deposit, noncarbonated beverage containers collected along
one ¼ mile stretch of the Saugatuck River, Westport, CT on 5/21/08.

