



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • CITY OF MILFORD • 110 RIVER STREET • MILFORD, CT 06460

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BOTTLE BILL SB661, WHICH ADDS DEPOSITS FOR WATER AND OTHER BEVERAGES: SPORTS DRINKS, TEA, AND JUICES. AND THE OTHER, SB662 INCLUDES ONLY WATER. BOTH BILLS RAISE THE HANDLING FEES, WHICH WE SUPPORT, AND RAISE THE DEPOSIT TO 10 CENTS. FEBRUARY 2, 2009.

Senator Meyer and Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chairs and members of the Environment Committee

My name is Ann Berman and as Chair of the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition, ECC, I represent over 400 members, who support these Bottle Bills.

I believe this is our third year coming before you in support of the Bottle Bills and I do hope it will be the last time it will be necessary for the legislators to have to deal with these bottles. It makes such basic common sense that these bottles should be included to be recycled for redemption and even more that the price should be raised to 10 cents. The rationale for increasing the price automatically tells the public that there is value in these bottles and that it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that one can, with very little effort, after returning their bottles, they will be returning home, not with just a few coins, but dollars in their pockets.

By passing **Bill SB661**, it will reduce the burden and hassle for the second **Bill SB662**; it will help our very serious litter problem, of which water bottles are one of the main culprits that are seen scattered over our landscape. Redeemable bottles will help play their part in our being more sustainable, reduce our carbon foot print and return some monies to the state in the form of escheats. It will be a triple win, win, win deal.

People who buy water bottles by the case need to look at their own budget plan. Legislators need not perceive that an increase in redeemables would cause a hardship for the customer. It is their choice to spend this kind of money, when perfectly good water flows from most of our taps. All one needs to do is make a small investment in a safe personal water bottle. It behooves the manufacturer, the seller and the buyer to take more responsibility for their roles in handling, selling and buying of these bottles. The process of Redemption is the best solution.

We hope that that you will see the dire necessity for passing **SB661** and if necessary **SB662**.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Submitted by

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