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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding the expansion of the bottle bill.

I serve on several boards regarding environmental issues, in particular those involved with land, river, wildlife and energy conservation. I also serve on municipal planning and zoning commission and a local watershed management committee.

The adverse effects of discarded containers concern all of these groups. Discarded containers end up on the roadsides, along our trails, in our rivers and oceans. By the millions!

The cost of pickup is significant itself, but the costs of not picking them up is even worse:

- Wildlife is injured on land, in rivers and oceans by the containers themselves
- Energy is wasted at a time when our energy policy is to use less
- Resources are lost that must be obtained at significant cost
- The landscape is blighted from litter, drilling for oil, and mining

A sustainable economy demands that these costs be internalized, i.e., that they be paid at the point of service as a part of the cost of the product. The cost of the deposit must be sufficient to pay for and/or to prevent and mitigate the abuses noted above.

Moreover, the bill must cast a wide enough net to catch the great majority of containers that tend to be discarded, including water and juice containers that are also a part of the problem.

I thank you for your consideration and urge you to support a strong and inclusive bottle bill.

