

Jan. 30, 2009

The Environment Committee
Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

I urge you to support and pass the new and improved "bottle bill", SB 661, which would expand the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles, sports drinks, tea, etc. and raise the deposit to \$0.10.

Connecticut's bottle bill has been a HUGE success for thirty years. It has greatly reduced the litter stream, conserved aluminum, glass and petroleum and reduced global warming.

We must address a major shift that has occurred in the beverage market – the over 400 million bottles of water that are sold in our state each year! That's 1.5 times the number of soda container sales. As a majority of water bottles and sports drinks are consumed away from home, the deposit-less containers rarely make it to curbside recycling. It only makes sense for the consumer to assume responsibility for assuring that their "discarded" water bottles are recycled. Redemption recycling rates are more than DOUBLE those of municipal curbside recycling (70% vs. 30%) – increasing the deposit may achieve rates of 90%. The uncontaminated PET plastic in these bottles is extremely desirable for the manufacturer of new products such as fleece.

Achieving some recycling rates of 70% may be essential in reaching the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan's recycling goal of 58%. The plan calls for adding water bottles to the deposit law, as there will not be enough disposal capacity in state to handle all of our solid waste.

The grocers and distributors will never support any expansion but they remain opposed to the original bill, which was an unequivocal achievement. It's past the time that we expand upon 30 years of successful legislation.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Stanley
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