



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

*Connecticut Chapter  
645 Farmington Ave.  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105  
[www.connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org)*

Environment Committee  
February 2, 2009  
Testimony of Martin Mador  
In Favor of

SB 661 An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to  
Include Noncarbonated Beverages  
HB5215 An Act Imposing a Five-cent Fee on Plastic Shopping Bags Provided by Retail Stores  
HB5475 An Act Concerning Private, Municipal and State Recycling

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic well-being, and the quality of life in Connecticut. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

SB661 is a bill which is many years overdue. The original Bottle Bill, covering only carbonated beverages, has had remarkable success. More than one billion bottles are redeemed each year. Because it uses an economic incentive rather than a mandate, it works. It is not a fee, a tax, or a surcharge. It gives people a choice-either return the bottles or don't go to the trouble, but forfeit the deposit. All of the bottles which are returned are recycled. We save energy, use less oil, and reduce litter. The program has become a fertile opportunity for fundraising for many worthy causes.

The growth in the use of small water bottles has been exponential. Likewise, tea, sports drinks, and juices are now sold in recyclable containers. Many of these are used outside of the residence. They will never be captured by residential recycling, no matter how efficient. Not even by single stream. Residential recycling has no better than a 30% rate. Containers with deposits are recycled at almost a 70% rate. The only effective way to prevent these containers from become roadside litter is through a deposit. This has been proven through 30 years of the original bottle bill, but, unfortunately, only for carbonated beverages.

The latest figures from the Container Recycling Institute are attached. 1,630,000 carbonated beverage containers subject to the current law were sold in Connecticut in 2006. 580,000 water bottles and 414,000 other drinks were sold. SB 661 would add require deposits on all of these, adding an additional 40% to the total.

SB 662 would impose a deposit only on water, but not on all other non-carbonated beverages. Sierra strongly recommends passage of SB 661.

Raising the deposit to ten cents from five will provide a greater incentive to recycle. As the original five cent deposit has not been raised since the original bill in 1978, we believe the

increase is appropriate. As Zoe Resch says in her testimony, "I was growing up in Michigan when the 10 cent deposit on bottles and cans went into effect, and it resulted in a startling change in the physical environment".

Likewise, an increase in the handling fee is also appropriate. We question whether a raise to three cents is sufficient, especially to support redemption centers, which are an important part of the recycling system.

The producers and retailers of bottles take no responsibility for them post-use. I am the past president of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Assn. We conduct cleanups of the river every spring, some years taking 20,000-30,000 pounds of trash from the river, much of it discarded bottles. A photo of litter from Hanover Pond in Meriden taken last year is attached.

Litter has a cost. In economic terms, the cost is "externalized": it is paid, not by the consumer or the manufacturer, but by society as a whole, which has to clean up the litter. A deposit system "internalizes" the cost by having the consumer pay for it. However, the consumer also has a choice to avoid the cost by returning the bottles for a deposit refund.

The Bottle Bill is a critically important bill for Connecticut, and is one of the most important items on the Sierra Club legislative agenda.

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HB 5215 provides for a five cent fee on plastic bags. These bags have become a significant part of our litter stream. They are found in great numbers in river clean ups, in roadside litter, and in great number even in ocean gyres, great masses of discarded detritus formed by vortices of ocean currents. Sierra recommends that it is time to address this issue. However, the bill as written will only drive consumers to request paper bags instead, which have their own environmental problems. We recommend requiring the deposit on both plastic and paper. Initially, we recommend this bill be limited to the checkouts at grocery stores, where efforts are already underway to promote re-useable bags. Many other retail stores sell items which would be difficult to carry in re-useable bags. This includes items as diverse as large items of clothing, produce, and even Subway sandwiches. Very careful consideration would have to be made of appropriate retail venues to include in the legislation.

Fees are made more palatable to the electorate when the income to the state is linked to the purpose of the fee. We strongly recommend that the income from charges on these bags be used to pay for recycling efforts of the DEP. Our DEP is critically underfunded; it suffers from one of the lowest budget percentages of any similar agency in the US. The legislation should mandate that bag fees be allocated to the DEP general fund budget.

\*\*\*\*\*

HB 5474 requires DEP to identify recyclable material, conduct public education on the benefits of recycling, and to require that all plastics be recycled. It encourages municipal curbside recycling, mandates recycling containers in public places, and imposes a penalty for improper disposal of previously sorted recyclables. Sierra believes that promoting enhanced recycling is both necessary and sound public policy. It reduces energy costs, reduces litter and landfill space, and can reduce municipal tipping fees. We strongly support this bill.

## Connecticut Beverages Sold in 2006 (millions of units)

Beverage Type	Traditional Materials						Non-Traditional Materials					Total, All Materials	
	Aluminum Cans	Steel Cans	Plastic Bottles			Glass Bottles		Subtotal, Traditional Materials	Gable-top cartons	Aseptic Boxes	Foil Pouches		Subtotal, Non-Traditional Materials
			PET	HDPE	Total Plastic	One-Way	Refillable	Total Glass					
<b>I. Carbonated</b>													
Carbonated Soft Drinks	686	0	266	0	266	6	1	7	959	0	0	0	959
Beer	317	0	1	0	1	322	1	323	642	0	0	0	642
Domestic Sparkling Water	3	0	11	0	11	16	0	16	30	0	0	0	30
<b>1. Subtotal, carbonated</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,630</b>
<b>2a. Non-carbonated, non-alcoholic</b>													
Domestic Non-Sparkling Water**	0	0	561	14	575	6	0	6	580	0	0	0	580
Sports Drinks	0	0	40	0	40	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	40
Fruit Beverages	15	1	66	25	91	25	0	25	132	41	47	57	277
Ready-to-drink Tea	19	0	25	8	33	25	0	25	77	3	0	0	81
Energy Drinks	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
<b>2a. Subtotal, non carbonated, non-alcoholic</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>2b. Non-carbonated, alcoholic</b>													
Domestic Table Wine	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	38	38	0	0	0	38
Spirits (Liquor)	0	0	11	0	11	18	0	18	28	0	0	0	28
<b>2b. Subtotal, Non-carbonated alcoholic</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>2. Subtotal, Non-carbonated</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>149</b>

**Summarized notes and sources:**

\*\*1 gallon and under. On the national level, there were 250 million PET beer bottles sold in 2005, which is less than one half of one percent of the total packaged beer market.

Source (for citation purposes): "Beverage Market Data Analysis," The Container Recycling Institute, 2007.

Sales derived from: "Beverage Packaging in the U.S., 2006," Beverage Marketing Corp., Dec. 2006; "Beverage World, May 2006, and data supplied by the Beer Institute, 2007.

This data excludes: milk, wine coolers, champagne and sparkling wine; frozen fruit concentrates.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 state pop. estimate (million): 3.5

Complete notes, sources, and assumptions are available on request from the Container Recycling Institute.

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See full copyright provision on Tab 1.



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Organization Members of the Better Bottle Bill Coalition

Sierra Club, Connecticut Chapter	Connecticut Audubon Society
Clean Water Action	CT Coalition for Environmental Justice
Green Team, Unitarian Universalist Society	CT Community Gardens Assoc
Farmington River Watershed Association	Environment Connecticut
Environment and Human Health, Inc	Garden Clubs of America
Conservation Commission - Town of Greenwich	Green Team-Farmington Schools
Westhill High School Environment Heroes Club, Stamford	Growing Green Coop
Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems (HARP)	Killingworth Conservation Commission
Oxford Land Trust Inc	League of Women Voters of CT
Bruce Museum	Milford ECC
Old Lyme Conservation Commission	People's Action for Clean Energy(PACE)
Oxford Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission	Quinnipiac River Watershed Association
Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board	Rail TEC
Northeast Organic Farmers Association(NOFA)	Toxics Action Center
Huskies Go Green-UCONN Stamford	Rivers Alliance
Grassroots Coalition	Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society, Derby
Audubon Connecticut	Citizen's Campaign for the Environment
CCAG	Partners in Healthy Communities
ConnPIRG	Teamsters
Environment Connecticut	CT Redemption Centers Association
CT Recyclers Coalition	CT Conference of Municipalities
	CT Fund for the Environment
	Housatonic Valley Paddle Club
	Land Trust of Danbury
	Wesleyan University Democrats





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Environment Committee  
February 2, 2009  
Testimony in Support of  
SB 661 An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to  
Include Noncarbonated Beverages (2009)

Following is the original testimony of Connecticut residents in support of SB 661 as forwarded to the Sierra Club for submission to the Environment Committee. It is submitted unedited, but printed together in order to save paper.

Dear Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs,  
I ask that you seriously consider and vote in favor of SB661. As a researcher who studies the environment, I feel strongly about this legislation, and hope that Connecticut can make a definitive statement about how we approach waste and prioritize recycling. A great deal of waste is produced in communities across our country every day. If it is necessary to produce this waste, then the best approach to deal with it is to encourage recycling. I ask you to do what is necessary to accept legislation that removes these types of bottles from the waste stream.  
As a mother I thank you for your work,  
Katharine

Dr. Katharine Owens  
44 Gabb Road Bloomfield CT 06002  
\*\*\*\*\*

I support SB661  
Deeanna McLenithan  
142 Castle Lane Milford, CT 06460  
\*\*\*\*\*

I strongly support these two bills. If I had to choose one "survivor" it would be SB661.  
Through the years I have seen so many of these non-deposited bottles in just about every location. Today, you will see them in the city trash receptacles where they will eventually end up in a landfill. I see them along the roads, in the parks, bike trails, walking trails, etc. Here in Vernon where I live, they are everywhere. No one seems to notice or do anything to correct the situation. I work part-time at a tax preparation service. There is no recycling done by this business, even though it is a national service. All the bottles go in the trash. It is time to do something about this and these bottle bills are a good start.  
Neal R. Kienholz, Jr.  
125 South Street - # 261, Vernon, CT 06066-4438.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs.

I VERY STRONGLY support the comprehensive bottle bill(SB661).

It is long overdue to update this legislation and obviously it makes sense to do it right and fully and hence SB661 would be the correct choice.

Yours Gratefully,

Maureen Abrahamson

256 Wood House Road Fairfield, CT 06824

p.s. I also own Mo's Wine & Spirits at 953 Post Road Fairfield and my entire staff and I wholeheartedly support this long- overdue bill.

\*\*\*\*\*

I support passing the bottle bill. Its time to update the system of recycling to include water and all beverage bottles. It is important to our environment that these items also must be recycled ASAP.

Nancy Sawicki

Redding, CT

\*\*\*\*\*

Today I went to the local pond to ice skate. I picked up about 20 plastic water bottles on the ice! I walk daily, and pick up trash in my neighborhood. I pick up about 5 bottles a day.

There is no good reason NOT to pass the water bill. The bottles are almost always clean, and with a deposit, there would be a lot less trash. Just ask those of us who pick up trash daily. Please pass this most important legislation!

Thank you,

Jalna Jaeger

3 East Ave, Norwalk, Ct. 06851



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Environment Committee  
February 2, 2009  
Testimony in Support of  
SB 661 An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to  
Include Noncarbonated Beverages (2009)  
and  
SB 357 AAC the Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions  
to Include Water Bottles (2008)

Attached is the original testimony of Connecticut residents in support of SB 661 as forwarded to the Sierra Club for submission to the Environment Committee. It is submitted unedited, but printed together in order to save paper. Testimony from other individuals from the 2008 session in support of SB 357 as submitted to the Sierra Club is also included, indicated with the designation "(2008)". Testimony from a total of 297 residents is included.

Joyce Acebo-Raguskus, Milford  
Tom Adamski, Oxford  
Margaret Aldinger, Groton  
Millette Alexander, Westport  
Gary E. Alger, Harwinton  
Henry B. Allen, Monroe  
Karen Althammer, South Windsor  
Megan Ambrose, North Windham  
Joshua Angelus, Waterbury  
Rose Anne Austin, West Hartford  
Philip B. Arnold M.D., Woodbridge  
Eileen Awsukiewicz, Rocky Hill  
Barbara Backman, Canton  
Douglas Baldwin, Guilford  
Theresa Sullivan Barger, Canton  
Barbara Barry, West Haven  
Gordon Bates  
Andy Bauer, Portland  
Richard Bauer  
Sheila Baummer, Naugatuck  
Janet M. Beatty, Simsbury  
Ann Beaudin, Windsor  
Gilberto Belaval  
Pippa Bell Ader, Westport  
Deborah Bennett, West Cornwall  
Joan Bertaccini, Morris  
Susan Bertolini, Avon  
David Bingham, MD, Salem  
Gail Bishop, Guilford  
Diana and Dick Blair, Old Lyme  
John Blake, Lebanon  
Kathleen and Robert Bradley, New Haven  
Vincent Brancato, Woodbury  
Douglas E. Brash, Woodbridge  
Lisa M. Brennan, Monroe  
Laura Brewerton, Cheshire

Richard Brigham, Windsor  
Daniel Britton, Mansfield  
Kathleen Brooker, New Canaan  
Marana Brooks, Litchfield  
Margaret Brown, Redding  
Carol Burgess, Oakdale  
Mary M. Burton, Stonington  
Beth Byron, Hartford  
Rayna Caldwell, New Haven  
Diane Calve, Darien  
Gail Cameron, Hamden  
Lisa Candels, Barkhamsted  
Colin Carlson, Coventry  
Arnold Chadderdon, North Haven  
Russell V. Charest, Meriden  
Starling Childs, Norfolk  
Dan Chiu, Stamford  
Prof. Christel Manning, Fair Haven  
Nancy and Ron Chute, Washington  
Faith Claspell, Stonington  
Corinna Clendenen, Madison  
Chris Clow, Sharon  
Charles W. Cobb, Old Saybrook  
W.B. Coley  
Connie Comfort, Old Lyme  
Ruthellen Corbett, Avon  
Rosemary Cotnoir, Essex  
Sandra Cox, Woodbury  
John Crist, Cheshire  
Leo Cristofar, Milford  
Noreen P. Cullen, Glastonbury  
John Dalton York, Newington  
Jo Ann Davidson  
Carol Davis, Norwalk  
Dawn Marie Day, Norwich  
Virginia de Lima, West Hartford

Kevin Delinski, Norwalk  
Alison DeMaio, Hamden  
Elizabeth Demetriades, Lakeville  
Peter and Marilyn Deraney, Norwalk  
Janak Desai, Fairfield  
Jake and Erika DeSantis, Redding  
Mari Muri and Dan Dolan, Cromwell  
Sarah Donovan, Easton  
Barbara E. Dreyer, Woodbridge  
Bob Eckenrode  
Marlys Elliott, Thompson  
Richard L. Emmons, Stamford  
Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, Hamden  
Wolf Erlich, Cheshire  
Anthony Esposito, Bethany  
Louise W. Fabrykiewicz, New London  
Mimi Fahy, Milford  
David B. Fairman, Waterford  
Judith E. Falango, Shelton  
Joan L. Faust, Riverside  
Carrie Firestone, Avon  
Vicki L Fisher, Guilford  
Sarah Fisher, Farmington  
CJ Foster, Milford  
Julius and Jane Fraser, Westport  
John Freedman, Preston  
Judi Friedman, Canton  
Betsy Glassman, Litchfield  
Marion Glick, Branford  
Bert Goff, New Milford  
Marcy Golden, Fairfield  
Katy Goldschmidt, Westport  
Louise Golub, Norwalk  
Chris Goodrich, Brookfield  
Linda Goodyear, Darien  
John M. Gourlie, Guilford  
Greta, Barry, Kristen, and Kenyon Grant, Avon  
Scott Gray, Terryville  
Stan Greenbaum and Paula Cassidy, New Milford  
Gregg Grippo, Norwich  
Julia Guarneri, New Haven  
Roy Guild, Portland  
Rich Hall, Guilford  
J.M. Hancock  
Michael G. Harris, East Haddam  
Susan G. Harrison, Morris  
Mary Heffernon, Wallingford  
Jennifer Henkind, Stamford  
Ted Hoffstatter, Wilton  
Taffy Holland, Old Lyme  
Allen Horner, Southington  
Vince Hough, Norwalk  
Greg Howard, Amston  
Lisl Meredith Huebner, Burlington  
Chester Hughes, New Haven  
Linda R. Isham, Suffield  
Susan J Llorca, Norwalk  
Rob Jackson, Westport  
David James, Meriden  
Sister Catherine Jemapete, Wilton  
Sarah C. Jennings, Newington  
Ahna Johnson, Hamden

Sherry Karraker, Redding  
Hugh Karraker, Redding  
Peter Katz, West Haven  
Joseph Kaufman, Guilford  
Dan Kazienko  
Monica Keady, Darien  
Sara Keane, Old Saybrook  
Martha and John Kendall, Lebanon  
Patricia F. Kenney, Meriden  
Sarah Baird and Ben Kerman, No Haven  
Richard Ketai  
Michael Kilmer, New Haven  
Laurie Klein, Hamden  
Linda Klein, New Haven  
Frank Keen and Sally Knowlton-Keen, Darien  
Lisa Koehl, Brooklyn  
Mary L. Kohnstamm, New Canaan  
Cathy S. Kohut, Monroe  
Jill Kotch, Redding  
Abigail Krich, New Haven  
Mary Kroft, Branford  
Matthew Kwasniewski, Quaker Hill  
Marc LaComb, Southington  
Lauren Lanham, Fairfield  
Susan Larson, Waterbury  
Jean Layton, Bridgeport  
Katherine A Leek, Wilton  
Melissa Leonard, Naugatuck  
Guy Lindsay, Manchester  
Lawrence Losio, Norwalk  
Laura Lytton and Rich Zelisko, Cheshire  
Craig Machado, Branford  
Neil Mackillop, New London  
Joseph J Marganski, Guilford  
Freda Margiloff, Greenwich  
Robert E. Marra, West Haven  
Palmer Marrin, Litchfield  
J.E. Martin, Stratford  
Debra Mason, Wallingford  
Lyndon M. McAllister, New London  
Lourdes McEttrick, Fairfield  
Eugene A. McIntyre, Sandy Hook  
Peter McKnight, Fairfield  
Laura McMillan, New Haven  
Wayne A. Meeks, Hamden  
Nancy C. Messer, Stamford  
Sarah W. Middleler, Newtown  
Bruce Montgomerie, Lakeville  
Bill Montgomery, Danbury  
Chuck Morgan, Willimantic  
John Mulready, South Windsor  
Karen Nangle, Meriden  
Sian Nimkoff, Weston  
Pat O'Brien, Old Saybrook  
Elsa Peterson Obuchowski, Norwalk  
Carole Osborn, Oxford  
Ben Page  
Justin Paglino, New Haven  
Lydia C. Pan, Mystic  
Rodney Parlee, Bolton  
Susan Eastwood and Anthony Paticchio, Ashford  
Linda Pearson

TESTIMONY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2009  
IN SUPPORT OF SB662/Bottle Bill

Yes I support our bottle bill SB661. I'll even drink to it! It has become an impressive flotilla on a collision course. I live one block up from the Housatonic River, in Devon/Milford, CT and often walk down to a lovely inlet which opens to its active waters. Close too, to the CT Audubon there is often wonderful wild life swimming along the banks. Unfortunately this small inlet also collects a pool of bottles that could make someone rich enough to open a savings account! Floating between the reeds and wild life, these bottles are claiming territory in unregistered waters... the ducks and swans are having a difficult time ducking for food without a plastic bottles bobbing off their fine feathered heads. The river is active with sail boats, motor and on a good day wonderful old tugs, all too often contributing to plastic bottle flotilla ... making a deposit in the Housatonic River rather than, recycling, collecting cash instead of trash and contributing to our environment in a positive way. We can make a difference here. We must pass our SB661 bill on bottles a major bottle pollutant.

Thank you.

Joyce Acebo-Raguskus

174 Eastern Parkway Milford, CT 06460

\*\*\*\*\*

March 7, 2008

As a director of the Oxford Land Trust, I am involved in organizing the annual Oxford Town Wide Cleanup. I can tell you that the bulk of the roadside litter that is picked up each year is non-deposit beverage bottles. We find very few deposit bottles on our roadsides, which is proof that the existing bottle bill works well. The bottle bill should be expanded to include all beverage bottles. It is extremely labor intensive to pick up the unsightly roadside litter. Expanding the bottle bill is the only effective way to reduce the huge number of cast off bottles littering our roadsides.

Sincerely,

Tom Adamski

17 Council Dr Oxford CT 06478 (2008)

\*\*\*\*\*

Environment Committee, Sen Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs,

Please pass the bottle bills, we need to keep these items out of the rivers and streams to be recycled. We are working on the plastic bags too, more and more people are using their own bags in the grocery stores and the rest of their shopping.

Margaret Aldinger

35 Bayberry Lane Groton, Ct 06340

\*\*\*\*\*

I absolutely support the bottle bill. We just have to form new, better, more responsible habits.. Litter and waste are so OLD!!!

Millette Alexander

157 Roseville Road Westport, Ct, 06880

\*\*\*\*\*

Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Gary E. Alger

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am very strongly in favor of expanding the bottle bill to include water bottles, as I believe it will greatly improve the percentage of water bottles being recycled, as opposed to ending up in landfills. By recycling more usable plastic, we cut down on use of petrochemicals. At the same time we will be reducing the volume of long lasting, barely-if-ever-decomposing, refuse taking up space in landfills.

It's painless, and the infrastructure is already in place.

Please pass the extension of the bottle bill.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Alger

6 Quail Run Harwinton, CT 06791 (2008)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Bottle Bill set up in 1980 was a great way to keep people from littering. This was because the popular cans and bottles of that time were available for a five cent redemption. Now, as times have changed, so have people's tastes and preferences.

Iced tea, sports drinks and bottled water, just to name a few, have risen in popularity and litter. To keep these other bottles

and cans off our land, we need to expand the Bottle Bill. We should also expand where the unclaimed bottle deposits go.

This is obvious that these funds be put toward supporting much needed

environmental programs. This would not raise taxes and it would help our environment. The Bottle Bill should also be

expanded to have a ten cent deposit on all bottles and cans, which would create more revenue and also give the containers

more value. This would keep even more bottles and cans off the streets and parks, and put them into our recycling centers,

Matt Pentz, Clinton  
Katherine A Peterson, Terryville  
June Peterson, Norfolk  
Marcia Peterson, Farmington  
Martha Phillips, Goshen  
Pat Piano, West Simsbury  
Nancy R. Pistone, Roxbury  
Constance St. Onge Post, Middletown  
Stacy Prince, Westport  
Jennifer Pryor, Mystic  
Donald Quinn III, Colchester  
Cynthia Rabinowitz, Bethlehem  
Mili Rapp  
Ray Rauth, Weston  
Laura Raymond  
Karen C. Reich, Avon  
David J. Reilly, Shelton  
Emma Reiss, New Haven  
Alana Remley, East Lyme  
Zoe Resch, New Haven  
Elizabeth A. Robinson, Storrs-Mansfield  
Meghan N. Ruta, Mansfield  
Tim Ryan, Trumbull  
Laurie R. Salzberg, West Hartford  
Brooke Samuelson, Chester  
Ken Sanford, Oxford  
Noreen P. Saunders, Killingworth  
Barbara Ellen Scanley, New Haven  
Gerhard and Edith Schade, Glastonbury  
Virginia and David Schneider, Woodbridge  
Greg Schnitzler, Wilton  
Georgina Scholl MD, Redding  
David Close Scofield, Warren  
Susan Scott, Cheshire  
Alison Seavey, Stratford  
Maryli Secrest, New Haven  
Ian Duncan Sellars, Southbury  
Jane Servadio, Milford  
Marjorie Shapiro, Orange  
Patricia Shaskin, East Hartford  
Scott C. and Monica A. Shuler, Simsbury  
Robert A. Simms, Jr, Greenwich  
David A. Skoczylas, Plainville  
Susan Slattery, Milford  
John L. Smith, Branford  
E. Marilyn Smyth, Ridgefield  
Barbara Smyth, New Britain  
Storm Somers, West Haven  
Lloyd W. Stableford, Trumbull  
Richard Stanley, West Simsbury  
Barbara Starr, Danbury  
Michelle Stearns, Fairfield  
Sonya Stedman, North Stonington  
Nancy R Steinman, Washington  
Anne U. Stone, Farmington  
Sara Stone, Darien  
Richard M. Stowe, New Canaan  
Bill Stubbs  
Thomas Sheila and Maggie Sullivan, Fairfield  
Eleanor S. Sullo, Colchester  
Kerry Swift, Brookfield  
Susan Tabachnick, Fairfield

Lynn Taborsak, Danbury  
Jeffrey & Ariane Tallman, Weston  
Jean Taylor, Redding  
Lisa Piastuch Temmen, Newtown  
Dr Terry Blank, Stamford  
Muriel W. Test, Middletown  
Frank Thomas, Bethlehem  
Peg and Mike Toto, Redding  
David Tracy, Norwalk  
Jean Trapani, Westport  
Eric Triffin, Bethany  
James Troy, New Haven  
Joshua Tryon, Coventry  
William Twomey, Stratford  
Stephen Updegrove, Hamden  
William B. Upholt, Hartford  
Jesse Valfely, West Haven  
Barbara van Achterberg, Easton  
Roger W. van Voorhees, Fairfield  
Jane Anderson Vercelli, Thompson  
John Vibert, Unionville  
Christopher Von Keyserling, Cos Cob  
Katherine L. Walker, East East Hartland  
Bob Wall, Fairfield  
Susan Weldon, Madison  
Lora Welt, Mystic  
Debra Wheeler, East Hartford  
Carla White, Hamden  
Kael Wiersch, Quaker Hill  
Allan Williams, West Hartford  
Adela and Lucius Wilmerding, Old Lyme  
Katherine Wilson, West Hartford  
Laura Winston, Old Saybrook  
Donna & Vic Worst, Ledyard  
Christine W Wright, Stonington  
Loretta Wrobel, Ashford  
Claire Zick, West Hartford  
Stephen Zwerling, Glastonbury  
Dr. Nan Zyla, Essex

where they belong!

Henry B. Allen

11 Hamlet Lane Monroe, CT 06468

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Karen Althammer

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I want you, the legislature, to pass the bottle bill that includes water bottles. Unfortunately, most people don't act responsibly regarding the environment unless it hits their pocketbook or wallet. People treat water bottles like cigarette butts - they toss them on the ground. By making a 5 cent deposit mandatory on water bottles, people will think twice before they just throw them away - instead they'll return them. The majority of our society has a "throw away" mentality - help people change that by charging a fee for water bottles.

Thank you.

Karen Althammer

70 Judge Lane South Windsor.CT

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I am responding in favor of the Bottle Bill, which would minimize trash and litter of non-deposit bottles and begin recycling them, as they should be treated. I greatly support this effort as we all are aware of the great expense, both financial and environmental, that reproducing new bottles from raw materials costs us. Any effort to minimize trash and maximize reuse of materials is a necessary one, which should be strongly supported. Please begin charging deposits on water bottles and all other beverage bottles and begin recycling this waste stream! I thank you in advance for making the wise decision.

Truly yours,

Megan Ambrose

54 Bella Vista Drive North Windham, CT, 06256-1211

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Legislators,

We need to pass the expanded the bottle bill to increase deposits by 10 cents and include all beverage bottles. Unfortunately in my neighborhood even where many folks struggle financially littering of beverage bottles is not unusual as the 5 cents deposit amount established in the 1980s has lost much of its value due to inflation in the last 20 years. Every week I pick up bottles and cans littering my yard and sidewalk area.

The increase to 10 cents will help to increase the incentive to return of bottles and cans and lessen littering while rewarding those who pick up other people's bottle and can litter.

Joshua Angelus

67 Hillside Avenue Waterbury, Ct 06710

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Dear State Senator Meyer and State Representative Roy,

As a Connecticut citizen I support the passage of SB661 which would add deposits to water bottles and other beverages not covered by our present deposit system. Connecticut was one of the first states to have a deposit bill and it put our state on the cutting edge of the green movement. I remember that the bill did a great job of reducing litter which I think was the original intention. The old bill needs updating to capture this new litter stream and send it to recycling. From my observations, I think that water bottles are now the most abundant bottles sold in the stores.

Rose Anne Austin

16 Edmund Place West Hartford, CT 06119-1315

\*\*\*\*\*

The comprehensive bottle bill is a needed environmental measure. There was a time when this type of legislation was unneeded. Atime when everything was reused. My job in the 1940's and early 50's was to rinse and place the milk bottles out side for the milkman. Cut the tops and bottoms off the cans to prepare them for recycling. Those days are unfortunately gone, but we can still do things to save the environment. A deposit on all liquid containers will help in this effort. If it costs a bit more to do it and takes a little more time suck it up for the good of all of us.

Philip B. Arnold M.D

131 Beecher Road Woodbridge Ct 06525

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2008Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I believe this bill can reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised

millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. If you fail to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil. Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Thank you, for letting me state my comments.

Eileen Awsiekiewicz  
261 Woodfield Crossing Rocky Hill (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Barbara Backman

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am Vice-president of People's Action for Clean Energy and a member of the Canton Energy Task Force.

I and my Girl Scout troop worked for the original bottle bill many years ago with Senator Rusty Post from Canton. I would very much like to see the bill extended to include ALL bottles of plastic or glass. But getting water and iced tea bottles under deposit would be a huge step.

Please support extending the scope of the "Bottle Bill."

Thanks,

Barbara Backman  
Canton (2008)

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We support the bottle bill.

Douglas Baldwin  
124 Andrews Road Guilford, CT 06437

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Dear Legislators,

Whether it's at an office, a school, a church or a health club, I cringe every time I see someone throw away a plastic water bottle. Although we are supposed to recycle water bottles, one seldom sees receptacles for recyclables. Unfortunately, few Americans will go to the trouble of bringing the water bottle home to recycle. But if there were a 5 cent deposit, they may think differently.

I recently traveled to Italy via Paris and found plenty of containers for recyclables in the airports and elsewhere. But when I was at Logan Airport and wanted to recycle a water bottle before boarding the plane, the recycling receptacle was no where in sight. If Connecticut required a deposit, people would be much more likely to recycle.

Connecticut's existing bottle bill is working. The bill has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1 million Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers' changed beverages consumption choices. Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages. The number of water bottles sold in the U.S. skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. In Connecticut alone, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005.

Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, fibers and fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

**WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?**

Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

65-70 percent of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled because of the 5-cent deposit incentive.

By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30 percent. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the 5-cent incentive, these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. Many people take water bottles to the gym, to work or while out running errands. The incentive will increase the likelihood that the bottles will be brought

back for redemption recycling. Thirty years of bottle bill success proves it.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sullivan Barger  
8 Pond Road Canton, CT 06019 (2008)

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I am in full support of the bottle bill. It will help to clean up the trash in our state and serve as a revenue for it as well.

Barbara Barry  
33 Skyline Drive West Haven, CT 06516

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Please add my name to those supporting the two bottle bills now under consideration. I prefer SB 661 which includes multiple bottle uses in addition to water. I support raising the deposit to ten cents and increasing the handling fees. It is important that as a society we structure more pressure to recycle. We've made great strides so far but we've a long way to go.

Gordon Bates

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Testimony of Andy Bauer to the Environment Committee, Monday, March 10th, 2008 in support of:

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers

Why should the legislature expand the redemption program instead of the curbside program?

Because this would be the most likely result:

Andy Bauer  
56 Old Marlborough Tnpk Portland CT, 06480 (2008)

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To whom it may concern

I am very much in favor of putting a deposit on water bottles. I live on a coutry road and pick up beer cans and water bottles. It is amazing how many water bottles there are. Lets help clean up the enviornment by passing this imporent bill that is long past due...

Thanks,

Richard Bauer  
(2008)

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Environment Committee 2009

Testimony of: Sheila Baummer

I am writing in favor of H. B. 661 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I believe that expanding Connecticut's current Bottle Bill to include water bottles, sports drinks, tea, and juices would be in the best interest of the state. This expansion is the most effective way to increase recycling rates, reduce litter, save energy, and conserved valuable natural resources.

The Bottle Bill expansion cannot come a moment too soon as not only Connecticut, but the entire country, works to reduce their impact on Global Warming and our dependence on all things manufactured using non-renewable resources.

Thank you.

Sheila Baummer  
211 Field Street Naugatuck, CT 06770-2530

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To Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs:

I'm writing to support the passage of SB661. It's long past time that we act to clean up the litter caused by discarded bottles and promote a healthier environment. Not only would the bottle bill encourage more recycling, but it would generate new jobs at a time when they are sorely needed. How can we afford to pass up this opportunity?

Thank you for encouraging the passage of this comprehensive bottle bill.

Janet M. Beatty  
30 Woodhaven Drive Simsbury, CT 06070-2636

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January 30, 2009

Attn: Environment Committee Members: Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy.

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy.

We ask that state legislators endorse Connecticut's Bottle Bill #SB661. It's time we expanded and updated CT's Bottle Bill law to include water, teas, juices, sports drinks and similar non-carbonated beverages. My colleagues and other individuals who are concerned with reducing litter and landfill debris believe that the first Bottle Bill enacted in 1978 has proven to be a most successful and effective preservation law.

As one who serves on numerous Boards and Committees in the interest of the environment and education, I believe that this SB661 is an excellent way to save towns and taxpayers money by enhancing our ability to further reduce litter on our roadways, streets, woodlands, beaches, parks, and waterways. This will also decrease growing impact on our landfills.

Finally, the Bottle Bill is an added boon to school children, charities, and other organizations that collect bottles for fund drives to raise money for various causes.

Thirty years is a long time between Bottle bills and legislation that has so many positive aspects.

We appreciate your effort in behalf of the Environment and respectfully ask that you enact SB661.

Cordially,

Ann Beaudin

1009 Poquonock Ave Windsor, CT 06095

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm writing to give my full support to the passage of SB661 a bill designed to require a deposit on plastic water bottles and other beverages that are not captured under CT's current recycling program. To long have water bottles gone uncollected and left to go into the stream of liter rather, they should be in our re-cycling stream. It is a great shame that by enlarge these bottles are lost and not recycled. CT needs to update its legislation if it is to have an effective recycling program.

I appreciate the opportunity to support proposed Bill SB661.

Gilberto Belaval

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I am in strong support of the bottle bill, SB 661, that adds deposits for water and other beverages, and increases the handling fees to 10 cents. I believe the time has come for Connecticut residents to recognize (via their pocketbooks) that placing potentially recyclable items into the waste stream is irresponsible and harmful to the environment.

Sincerely,

Pippa Bell Ader

62 Woodside Avenue Westport, CT 06880

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Deborah and Bruce Bennett

In favor of SB 661

I firmly support the above bill. The millions of water bottles that are currently filling our landfills at great expense to the taxpayer and the environment. The plastic in these bottles can be easily recycled with a success rate of 65%, costing the taxpayers virtually nothing. We are mandated by the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s to recycle 58% of our waste. We must act now... we have easily gotten used to recycling soda bottles...the same can be done with water.

Thank you for listening.

Deborah Bennett

107 Cream Hill Rd West Cornwall, CT 06796.

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I support the Bottle Bill SB661 and will call my representatives, Rep. Craig Miner and Senator Andrew Roraback. The waste bothers me, discarded bottles dot the countryside, clog drains and are disgusting. We are already recycling other bottles and cans, and it is easy to return the water, tea, etc bottles as well. Also, maybe it will cut down the use of bottled water, which is a fad. Our drinking water is just fine out of the tap. I am proud to say I have never bought bottled water. I have read how expensive it is, with tankers of water going to Asia for bottling etc, incredible. I am FPR the bottle bill. 100%.

Joan Bertaccini

Morris CT

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March 8, 2008

I commend you for your efforts to advocate for the bottle bill to expand deposits on water bottles, though I wish it would include all beverages like juice and fitness drinks. I am overwhelmed with the amount of plastic and glass I see in garbage cans at parks, malls, art and sporting events.

In this day and age, recycling these items seems like the only responsible thing to do. A bottle deposit will encourage many more people to act responsibly and decrease the tons of plastic and glass from these items filling up our landfills and using up our resources.

I strongly support you in your efforts to see the bottle bill passed in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Susan Bertolini

11 Robbins Road Avon, CT 06001 (2008)

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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.

David Bingham, MD

50 White Birch Rd Salem, CT 06420

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Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs,

I am in favor of passing the bottle bill - and any bill that prevents us from continuing the downward spiral of environmental unresponsibility. The packaging of all products must be lessened and made biodegradable or recycleable.

We must pay the price for the luxuries we choose to live with - those that feel the 10 cents too high might begin to fill their own reuseable bottles from home. There will be complaints, but taxing the planet less is far less costly in the long run.

Gail Bishop

185 West Lane Guilford, CT 06437

\*\*\*\*\*

We enthusiastically support your efforts to urge the passage on Monday 2/2 of SB661 to initiate a 10 cent deposit on plastic water bottles. We frequently walk around our neighborhood and see many of them discarded along the roads.

The current bottle bill has been a big success and it's only logical to add to it as circumstances change.

We support the State of Connecticut getting some of this revenue. Let's hope the bill is successful this time.

Sincerely,

Diana and Dick Blair

Old Lyme

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Environment Committee

I am John Blake, chapter chair of the Sierra Club in Connecticut. I would like to take this opportunity to write in favor of S.B. No. 661.

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleecce, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it. Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding 'at least' water bottles to the deposit law. The plan plainly states, 'there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal.' Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

John Blake

300 Clubhouse Rd. Lebanon, CT

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Kathleen and Robert Bradley

In favor of S.B. No. 661

We have been active for many years in our neighborhood and have led many neighborhood and park clean-ups. It is amazing how Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter. Since passage of that bill we pick up very few redeemable bottles but have been picking up more and more plastic water bottles. It only makes sense that expanding the BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES would produce similar results.

Because of the five-cent deposit incentive 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled; compared with only about 30% successful recycling with curbside recycling.

Passage of this expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions will reduce litter and help reduce Connecticut's solid waste. Connecticut is a small state and will soon run out of in-state disposal capacity forcing Connecticut tax payers to pay for shipping 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

We know that there are those that will cry that passage of this expansion will have some dire consequences, be too expensive, cost jobs etcetera. Nonsense! It didn't happen with soda and beer bottles and it will not happen with water bottles. Passage is essential and we look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen and Robert Bradley

21 West Rock Avenue New Haven, CT 06515

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Environment Committee

January 30, 2009

Testimony of Vincent Brancato

In favor of S.B. No. 661 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER, TEA, SPORTS DRINKS & OTHER BOTTLES.

To face the critical problem of protecting the environment while adding commercial benefits to the state is important to the future of our environment and our state.

Ways that work should be employed.

The success of the current bottle bill for beer and soda bottles was brought home to me while having my car washed at the car wash in Southbury. I was throwing my used paper coffee cup into the trash and there were empty juice, tea and water bottles there but no soda or beer bottles.

The in place mechanism for deposits with soda and beer containers etc has documented the success this means can have to protect our environment and provides the blueprint for successful implementation of a plan for other beverages.

Connecticut's existing BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, and conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 661 updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

WHY WATER BOTTLES? -

- Today bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.
- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!
- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.
- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis. Also this would reduce, or maybe eliminate, the need of Connecticut's water bottles to buy raw material from out of state - creating jobs and keeping revenue in Connecticut. Currently I believe that a major provider of the PET is Canadian causing the money paid by Connecticut's water bottlers and plastic bottle makers to not only leave the state but also the county and the money takes with it the resulting jobs to do the recycling.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.
- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE CASH DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers as well as contributing to a not very efficient utilization of energy for pickup.

- No curbside system will get beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the cash

incentive these containers will not very often be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it. Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them can be an essential component for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. The plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Vincent Brancato

19 Tamarack Lane Woodbury, CT.

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Douglas E. Brash

In favor of S.B. No.661

My wife, daughter, and I would like the legislature to pass the bill expanding redemption provisions to include water bottles. Health-consciousness has increased the number of water bottles used by 10 fold between 1997 and 2005, so that they now outnumber soda bottles. But environment-consciousness has not increased in step. This waste ends up in landfills or as greenhouse gases instead of as useful recycled materials.

Curbside recycling is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a 30% success rate, and is an unfunded mandate on towns. Moreover, many of these bottles are used at sporting events, concerts, and other venues that do not provide recycling containers.

Recycling even 70% of these containers would help achieve the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan's recycling goal and avoid having taxpayers pay to ship tons of waste out of state.

Thank-you.

Douglas E. Brash

17 Old Barnabas Rd Woodbridge, CT

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Passing this bill will no doubt increase state revenue if given a chance and a little time. The impact on the environment will be immediate and the right thing to do for CT's future. Its local benefit will benefit my neighbor John. John is an elderly gentleman on a very limited income who has been collecting for some time now, trying to making ends meet. Our small community gathers and he collects year round every Sunday evening. At times, Grandson in tow! Passing this bill is the right thing to do for John, the Environment, and in a little time the state of CT. Lets be the leaders on this one CT.

Lisa M. Brennan

106 Greenwood Lane Monroe CT

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Being a mother of five children over the years, I have seen the amount of beverage containers rise. The constant "improvement" of older beverages or the inventions of new juice drinks have often filled my recycling bin to overflowing. To include these items in the Bottle Bill could only improve the cleanliness of the environment and generate extra income for Environmental Programs. The unclaimed bottle deposits should go back into the environment and should support these programs as the bottles usually can be found along highways, in parks and in the forest, not to mention in the waters we swim in.

To see Connecticut so far behind other states in improving our ecology is sad. We should be leaders and do everything we can to expand the Bottle Bill and to claim the unclaimed bottle deposits to better our world, not only for our future but for our children's future also.

Laura Brewerton

771 Jarvis St Cheshire, CT 06410

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In favor of SB 357

I am writing in favor of SB 357, an act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles. The change of drinking habits to profuse use of bottled water, rather than tap water, has created a litter problem, probably unforeseen by those who prompted this trend. Experience with soda and beer bottles has demonstrated that a vast majority of these empty bottles are turned into be redeemed for cash. In the interest of helping our environment, I urge that that this bill be adopted by the Senate.

Richard Brigham

3 River Town Road Windsor, CT 06095 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Daniel Britton

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER

REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am in favor of expanding the bottle bill to include water bottles. Providing monetary incentive to recycle water bottles will increase PET recycling, reducing litter, air pollution, and our use of fossil fuel. Furthermore, I believe deposit redemption systems send an important message to citizens about the importance of recycling and the value of recyclable materials, and raise consciousness about waste management.

Daniel Britton  
294 Hanks Hill Rd Mansfield, CT. (2008)

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Every year I visit my family in Maine and we do what all good Mainers and tourists do, we save our bottles, take them to one of the many recycling centers and we drop them off. Our children get the small change which can be as much as \$18 after a month or two of collecting bottles in the garage.

With this incentive, as I had when I was a Michigan resident long ago, recycling is both saving resources but income producing. I would be happy to recycle and have this money donated to the environment. Mainers are very clear about their focus - maintain their pristine environment because that is why so many of us out of staters go there to visit.

Please support the Bottle Bill and help save our planet and our futures. As a middle school teacher I can say that all teachers would be happy to teach the value of this recycling program as part of our curriculum.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Brooker

94 New Norwalk Rd. New Canaan, CT 06840

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Environment Committee

March 10,2008

Testimony of MARANA BROOKS

In Favor of SB 357 An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Water Bottles

I am a member of the Litchfield Garden Club.

Please pass this bill. The Connecticut Legislature responded decades ago to the abundant purchase of disposable beverage containers by providing an incentive to dispose of these containers appropriately.

Since purveyors and consumers developed a healthy market for bottled water, purveyors and consumers earned the right for their containers to be included in redemption provisions.

Passage of this bill is... overdue. Your constituents are ahead of you on this issue and this year you know it.

The Litchfield Garden Club polled its membership two years ago regarding this issue. The club continues to back prompt passage of SB 357.

Respectfully submitted,

Marana Brooks

88 Wigwam Road Litchfield, CT (2008)

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Dear Sen. Meyer & Rep. Roy,

I am writing in strong support of these two bottle bills this session. We need to take action now.

I have walked for many years along the roads in my area, and it seems that empty bottles are everywhere. I often carry a bag to pick up these eyesores and trash. I support the most comprehensive plan that you can get!

Thank you,

Margaret Brown

64 Lonetown Rd. Redding, CT 06896

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 661. After so many years, it makes sense to raise the bottle deposit, and to allow for rising costs. At the same time, we need to expand the items covered so that we can capture more waste rather than seeing it on the side of the road. Expecially with the proliferation of beverage products it is important to be as inclusive as possible. I remember when we first passed bottle deposit legislation, almost no one drank bottled water, or the myriad of juice, tea,

energy-boosting concotcions which are now commonplace to the point

of being ubiquitous. Let's keep as many containers as possible out of roadsides and landfills. Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Burgess

28 New Hampshire Lane Oakdale, CT 06370

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the Bottle Bill that is before you. We have to try to make our environment priority number one and this bill will help by inducing many people to redeem their water bottles for their deposits. Please consider passing this bull for our future and our grandchildren's futures.

Sincerely,  
Mary M. Burton  
340 Al Harvey Rd. Stonington, CT. (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Beth Byron

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am Beth Byron, a resident of Hartford, an active member in the society and a supporter of the CT bottle bill. Today I would like to urge you to vote in favor of expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles. I live in a Hartford and every street corner there is at least one water bottle on the ground waiting to be picked up in the trash. I do not see as many pop bottles or beer bottles on the ground, why because they have a redemption.

There are several reason to support the redemption provisions to include water bottles.

- 1) It is the ONE THING you can do to help our environment
- 2) It is the ONE THING you can do to support less fortunate people with the economic benefits to low income collectors.
- 3) It is the ONE THING you can do to lower our dependence on oil with the crisis of peak oil just around the corner.
- 4) It is the ONE THING that will put CT head of the curve to recognize the importance of recycling on a mass scale.
- 5) It is the ONE THING you can do to help ensure that the resources behind large commercial production of bottle water are quelled.

Please support the S.B. 357 this session. Your future dependence on oil and your children's future of water depends on it.

Thank you,  
Beth Byron

75 Oxford Street Apt C2 Hartford CT 06105 (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Rayna Caldwell

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER

REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I strongly encourage you to pass a bottle bill. Having lived in other states with bottle bills I can tell you that it greatly reduces litter and broken glass along roads. The enterprising and poor are glad to collect bottles and redeem them. In addition, it enables recycling of glass and plastic that preserves natural resources and saves large amounts of energy. Won't you please act on behalf of Ct and pass this worthy bill!

Thank you,  
Rayna Caldwell

504 Whitney Ave New Haven, CT. (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Diane Calve

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

I am very much in favor that the legislature pass this expansion of Connecticut's Bottle Bill. The bottle bill has reduced litter and has saved precious energy hours and valuable products, such as aluminum, petroleum and glass. The five-cent recycling of beverage bottles and cans has been an economic boon to Connecticut's public schools.

It is past time to include water bottles in this recycling process. By not recycling water bottles it increases our landfill issues and creates unnecessary carbon dioxide when incinerated with the rest of our trash thus add to the global warming crisis. Adding the recycling of water bottles will lower waste and will not cost the state a dime, whereas if Connecticut does not recycle water bottles the state will continue to spend more and more money on incineration and/or transporting to out-of-state landfills.

Count me as heartily in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

Sincerely,  
Diane Calve

297 West Ave Darien, CT 06820 (2008)

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Environment Committee March 10, 2008

Testimony of Gail Cameron

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

To whom it may concern - I think the passage of this bill is extremely important. The number of water bottles that are either put into the curbside trash or worse yet, thrown out along the roadsides as litter is appalling. Unfortunately the way to get people to pay attention is usually through something monetary. The success of returns on soda bottles shows that it can help. I ask that you pass this important legislation for the sake of our environment and to make one more step towards protecting our fragile world. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Gail Cameron

117 Squire Lane, Hamden, Ct. 06518 (2008)

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Please Support SB 357 Expanding Deposits to Water Bottles

Bottle bills make sense for many reasons: reducing litter, saving energy, conserving valuable resources like aluminum, glass and petroleum, allowing millions of dollars to be raised for community needs, and reducing the burning of plastic bottles that adds to global warming. Since more and more people are choosing to drink water, it makes absolute sense to include water bottles in the deposit program. SB 357 does just that!

More than twice as many bottles are recycled because of the 5 cent deposit. People bring returnables home from work, schools, etc. Removing more items from the waste stream is critical as landfills are already near to capacity and taxpayers will soon have to be paying exorbitantly for shipping waste out of state. Please vote for SB 357 and help us do the right thing.

Lisa Candels

Barkhamsted, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee - March 10, 2008

Testimony of Colin Carlson in favor of S.B. No. 661

My name is Colin Carlson and I live at 640 Merrow Road in Coventry, Connecticut. I run a climate change organization based in Coventry and am on the steering committee of the Connecticut Youth Activist Network. I am writing to express my support for SB 357, and to urge you to pass this bill.

In 2005, Connecticut residents used and disposed of 426 million plastic water bottles made from petroleum. Failing to recycle these bottles is bad for our economy and national security, as it increases our dependence on foreign oil. Disposing of these bottles is also extremely harmful to the environment, whether the bottles sit in landfills or are burned, releasing large amounts of greenhouse gasses and chemicals now known to damage human health.

Long term data from our current curbside recycling and container redemption programs has made it completely clear that we must have a redemption programs for water bottles if we expect them to be recycled in significant numbers. Curbside programs have a success rate of only about 30 percent, and cost towns money - to achieve the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan's recycling goal of 58%, it is absolutely necessary to expand the redemption program in Connecticut (which has a much greater success rate of about 70 percent) to include water bottles. Time has proven that, without a five cent redemption initiative, people are not sufficiently motivated to change their bottle recycling behavior. It has also proven that the consequences of further inaction on this issue will, over time, prove catastrophic.

Therefore, I urge you to support and pass this tremendously important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Colin Carlson

Director, Cool Coventry Club

Colin Carlson

640 Merrow Road Coventry, CT

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In Support of SB 357 AAC EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

I am glad that the legislature is about to take up a bill to RECYCLE WATER BOTTLES. It's incredible the number of water bottles in six-packs and twelve-packs one sees in the markets. And everywhere you go, somebody is sipping one. The railroad stations have a separate container for bottles, and most of them are water bottles, which can't be recycled. When I walk in the park I find them strewn in every ditch beside the road. I pick up soda bottles and beer cans and take them to the local grammar school every month when the PTA has a drive, and I'm so glad to turn this unsightly trash into something useful.

It will be argued that a 5c deposit will boost the price of water, a necessary item for all. In Connecticut bottled water is a luxury; all of our cities and towns have tap water which is more closely monitored than that of the bottling companies. And at the ridiculous price they charge for a bottle of water, another nickel would never be noticed. Besides, those who feel the deposit makes it too expensive can always bring the bottle back for a refund.

There is no excuse, then. We need a bill to make the deposit on bottles include water bottles.

Arnold Chadderdon

5 Dogwood Rd. North Haven, CT 06473 (2008)

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am an Appalachian Mountain Club hike leader and backpack leader. I greatly enjoy the outdoors! I'm for Bill # 357 "The Bottle Bill" I believe that the #2 plastic water bottle should be recycled. This will take litter off the streets and put it, in it's place. The environment this very important, and recycling is a key to the future. I feel that this is the right thing to do.

Please vote in favor of this bill.

Best Regards,

Russell V. Charest

1187 North Broad St #7 Meriden, CT 06450 (2008)

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To Members of the CT General Assembly:

It has come to my attention that the above referenced Senate Bill 357 will be raised in the legislature on Monday, March 10th. The redemption program for bottles and cans of carbonated beverages passed years ago in the State of Connecticut has been a resounding success in helping to combat the unnecessary waste of valuable resources and excess material in our waste streams or worse, littered along the roads of our state. The energy savings associated with recycling of beverage containers alone should be reason enough for expanding the law to cover water bottle redemption. The explosive growth in the production, sale and consumption of these plastic containers is frankly indefensible from many points of view, but nevertheless, beverage companies have been the beneficiaries of successful marketing and consumer driven demand to the detriment of our waste recovery and management programs.

Consumers should be required to pay the five cent redemption on these containers in order to alleviate the problems associated with their wrong-headed buying habits. Connecticut water companies produce some of the best drinking water in the world and go to great lengths to insure adequate supplies of quality water at the tap. Using reusable containers and simple tap filtration systems provides a comparable water product for any one who thinks about how most bottled water is produced, but many do not take the time to think about their actions when buying bottled water. With petroleum prices now threatening to destabilize global economies, petroleum usage destabilizing our global environment, and the recoverable value in unrecycled plastic containers lost to the solid waste streams, now is the time to act on this bill to once and for all demonstrate Connecticut's leading commitment to sustainability and wise thinking when it comes to the use of petroleum based products. The companies and stores that push out these containers by the millions must play a part in the process of recovering this valuable resource, and consumers, themselves, will not pay attention until they are made aware of the environmental costs associated with their purchasing decisions.

I heartily endorse the intent of the bill for recycling of bottled water containers and encourage all members of the legislature to enact this timely and effective measure to once and for all address a major source of resource wastefulness in our society.

Thank you for bringing this to the attention of the committee and the legislature.

Starling Childs

109 Litchfield Rd. Norfolk, CT 06058 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Dan Chiu

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

All the bottles thrown away end up in the landfill and will take thousands of years to disintegrate.

We should do what's environmentally responsible and reduce waste.

Dan Chiu

1611 Washington Blvd Stamford, 06902 (2008)

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I live in Fair Haven, CT (part of New Haven) where I own a multi-family building. In my experience water bottles are a huge problem. For one thing, they cause litter. People throw all kinds of bottles in the street around here. But unlike beer and soda bottles which are collected by local kids and street people, nobody picks up plastic water bottles. So the wind blows them around, they get caught in piles of leaves, flattened by cars in the road . . . they are everywhere. It is disgusting! Even among those who don't litter, most folks in this neighborhood don't bother to recycle them. For example, my tenants, an elderly Puerto Rican couple, purchased a case of 12 oz water bottles every week and after drinking them put them in the trash--not the blue recycling bin. Yet they did recycle soda bottles which they returned to the store. They started using the bin after I told them to, but most tenants in New Haven do not have landlords who care about this. Having a bottle bill for water bottles would provide much stronger incentives to recycle!

Prof. Christel Manning  
Fair Haven, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 7, 2008

Testimony of Nancy and Ron Chute  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

We would like to urge the legislature to pass SB#357. We feel by requiring a deposit for plastic water bottles, people will be motivated to recycle them. This deposit will thus be an important step to encourage more recycling of plastic, and it will reduce plastic in the waste stream.

Thank you for your good work.

Nancy and Ron Chute

8 Kirby Rd. Washington, CT 06793. (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Faith Claspell  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am writing to express my support in favor of Senate Bill number 357 that would expand the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles. As water is the primary beverage I drink, I would like to be part of the success of the Connecticut Bottle Bill which has reduced litter, saved energy, and conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass. In addition, as a program director and corporate secretary for a 501 (c)(3) non profit organization in Connecticut, I appreciate the fact that this Bottle Bill has raised millions of dollars for thousands of

Connecticut school and community groups. Although many people already recycle their water bottles out of a love and respect of nature and a strong belief in a human's civil and social duty to do so, unfortunately, it is obvious that more people will recycle their water bottles if it is of monetary benefit for them personally. A bottle deposit on water bottles will do that. I ask that you support this Bill so Connecticut will enjoy a brighter future. Thank you in advance for your support for this Bill.

Respectfully yours,

Faith Claspell

176 Flanders Road Stonington, CT. (2008)

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To:

Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Corinna Clendenen

RE:

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Please pass this bill. Let's clean up the state and keep it clean. I live on the Long Island Sound and it's pretty what can wash up on the shore, including plastic water bottles.

Thanks very much

Corinna Clendenen

102 River Edge Farms Rd Madison, CT (2008)

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We support the bottle bill.

Chris Clow

119 Calkinstown Road Sharon, CT 06069

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Environment Committee: Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy,

Please support the bottle bills now and upcoming. Our environment needs the protection and our State government needs the income..

Charles W. Cobb

24 Whitney Avenue Old Saybrook, CT 06475-1970

\*\*\*\*\*

i fully endorse your argument with respect to the connecticut bottle bill. i strongly believe s.b. 357 must be preserved and am pleased to have my view communicated to the appropriate political persons. the present redemption provision needs not only to be maintained but also expanded to include water bottles. this is an environmental not a convenience issue.

w.b. coley

(2008)

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The success of the bottle deposit law in helping to clean up the roads and streets here in Connecticut is very evident to me. I remember when we didn't have it and broken glass littered the sides of the roads. Extending this bill to another class of litter makes great good sense.

Good luck in pushing FOR this extension of the bottle bill

Connie Comfort  
3 Ball Lane Old Lyme

\*\*\*\*\*

To Whom It May Concern:

I support SB 357, the bill to recycle bottled water containers. I urge you to do also.

Why is SB357 good for Connecticut? It saves money and the environment.

By updating Connecticut's successful deposit/redemption program, our towns can save money. Instead of curbside recycling which is a town's financial responsibility, a state mandated deposit/redemption program costs the state or towns nothing. In addition, not all towns have curbside recycling, and the bottles will most likely be thrown away. If they are brought to landfills, the amount of solid waste will soon outgrow the available land to store it. Thus Connecticut residents will have to pay for transporting our garbage to other states. How bad is that when we cannot take care of our own refuse? What a waste of resources.

This brings us to the second point. SB 357 is kind to the environment. The sale of bottled water has grown tremendously. In Connecticut in 2005 alone, more than 426 million bottles of water were sold. Manufactured from PET, these bottles can be recycled, but not if they are thrown away with other trash. Burning them creates the release of CO2 into the atmosphere, a cause of global warming.

Trash, expense, global warming! The citizens of Connecticut have already proven that a 5cent deposit on bottles results in a 65-70% rate of recycling. Let us expand the deposit/redemption policy to water bottles. Support SB 357.

Ruthellen Corbett  
Avon, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Rosemary Cotnoir

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I want the legislature to pass this bill. Connecticut's Bottle Bill is very successful, but needs to be updated to include water bottles. SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers will do this. Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles, carpet and other products. One more step in keeping our environment clean. Pass this bill.

Very truly yours,  
Rosemary Cotnoir

3 Orchard Heights Road Essex, Ct 06426. (2008)

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We at the HousatonicValleyPaddleClub support passing the comprehensive bill SB661.

It is important to the health of our local rivers and lakes to have deposits on these plastic bottles to they dont end up in strainers on these waters.(strainers are down trees that catch garbage) The need for recycling is very important.

Sandra Cox  
21 Clubhouse Drive Woodbury Ct 06798

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On Monday, the Bottle Bill goes before the Environment Committee of the state legislature. SB661 will extend a 10-cent deposit to plastic water, juice, tea, and soda bottles. This will help prevent litter and provide some much-needed revenue to the state.

My legislators are Mary Fritz and Sam Caligiuri. I have no special interest or nothing to gain from this bill other than the knowledge that we will be doing the right thing for the future and setting an example that CT is a leader in protecting the environment.

Sincerely,  
John Crist

321 Greens Loop Cheshire, CT 06410

\*\*\*\*\*

I strongly support the bottle bill. It will reduce litter, reduce the cost to the town of recycling and trash collection, and move us along towards more recycling, which is essential to reduce the use of materials and energy and the accumulation of trash in landfills.

Leo Cristofar  
567 Milford Point Road Milford, CT 06460-5430

\*\*\*\*\*

I think we all recognize that the original bottle bill has removed a great deal of trash from our roadways, towns, and natural areas. At the time it was passed, bottled water was not very popular. However, the plastic bottles in which water is sold are every bit as eco-unfriendly as other beverage bottles are. In fact, we now see water bottles strewn throughout Connecticut. We must become responsible for the entire life cycle of the goods we purchase, particularly for the packaging of them which is filling our landfills and trash plants needlessly. The public has supported returnable cans and bottles and will support returnable water bottles equally as well.

Simply put, it is the right thing to do. Please pass Senate Bill 357 as soon as possible.

Noreen P. Cullen

30 Delmar Rd Glastonbury, CT 06033 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of John Dalton York

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am strongly in favor of passage of the bill expanding beverage container redemptions to include water bottles. Bottled water containers contribute a huge amount waste that should be recycled and it is crucial to take appropriate steps to eliminate as much of the waste and litter as possible from this source.

Thank you,

John Dalton York

92 Thornton Dr. Newington, CT (2008)

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Please support a new comprehensive bottle bill. I walk in my neighborhood and pick up water and juice bottles. I recycle them with no refund. Also, let's get those unused return deposits back in the income flow of the state, not the distributors.

Jo Ann Davidson

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Expansion of the deposit requirement to water bottles is long overdue. I am a walker and no matter where I walk I find discarded water bottles on the side of the road. Not only are they garbage and an eyesore, but they should be recycled with other cans and bottles. I urge legislators to increase the deposit to 10 cents and require deposits on water bottles and juice containers.

Carol Davis

199 Gregory Blvd. C-3 Norwalk CT 06855

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Dawn Marie Day

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Here is some background information on the Bottle Bill:

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

WHY WATER BOTTLES?

- Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.
- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!
- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.
- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.
- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF

THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan's overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. the plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Dawn Marie Day  
348 Scotland Road Norwich, Conecticut (2008)

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The huge growth in sales of bottled water and other specialty beverages makes it necessary for us to expand the bottle bill to include these containers. Having a deposit encourages people to recycle the container--even if they put it in a recycling bin, there are many individuals who cruise neighborhoods on trash day to collect these containers and turn them in.

Virginia de Lima  
4 Avalon Rd West Hartford, CT 06119

\*\*\*\*\*  
I am in support for the SB661 bill. Please inform me on the outcome of the vote for the bill on monday.

Kevin Delinski  
35 Geneva Road Norwalk CT 06850

\*\*\*\*\*  
I support the passing of the bottle bill for three reasons.  
1) Reduction of roadside litter.  
2) Greater incentive to recycle rather than add to the waste stream  
3) More available resources for our homeless population and underprivileged who rely on picking up returnables to supplement their income.

Thanks,  
Alison DeMaio  
70 Bear Path Road Hamden, CT 06514-1302

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I strongly support the comprehensive Bottle Bill HB 661  
All bottled beverages should mandate a deposit  
Elizabeth Demetriades

11 Brook St Lakeville CT 06039

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We support the bottle bill.  
Peter and Marilyn Deraney  
14 Farm Creek Rd Norwalk, CT 06853

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs.  
I VERY STRONGLY support the comprehensive bottle bill(SB661).

It is long overdue to update this legislation and obviously it makes sense to do it right and fully and hence SB661 would be the correct choice.

Janak Desai  
815 S Pine Creek Rd Fairfield CT 06824-6325

\*\*\*\*\*  
The extension of the bottle deposit requirement to cover water, juice, tea, and sportsdrink containers would be beneficial to our state, unobtrusive to its citizens, and simple and inexpensive for its businesses to implement. Further, it would show Connecticut as a leader in our country's effort to achieve a sustainable existence on our ever-crowding planet.

Jake and Erika DeSantis  
30 Mark Twain Lane Redding CT 06896-2227

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Environment Committee  
March 8, 2008

Testimony of Mari Muri and Dan Dolan  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER

**REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.**

Although we would prefer that no water be bottled, in absence of that we encourage the legislature to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mari Muri and Dan Dolan  
6 Shadow Lane Cromwell, CT. (2008)

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I am Sarah Donovan from Easton, Connecticut, and I ask that the legislature pass the bottle bill. Please pass a bottle bill that reflects the way people currently drink beverages. Non carbonated beverages have become much more prevalent since the last bottle bill was passed. Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis. Let's keep plastic out of the waste stream and into the recycling stream.'

Thanks,  
Sarah Donovan  
103 North Park Avenue Easton, CT 06612 (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 9, 2008

Testimony of Barbara E. Dreyer

In favor of S.B. No. 357 an act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption; provisions to include water bottles

I would like very much to see the CT legislature pass this new bottle bill. Everywhere in Connecticut one sees the litter and waste caused by all the empty water bottles. By imposing a deposit on these bottles, people would be encouraged to recycle them. The bottles could then be processed into recycled PET for new bottles, fleeces, carpets, kayaks, etc. Please do vote to pass this bill!

Barbara E. Dreyer  
1061 Racebrook Road Woodbridge, CT 06525 (2008)

\*\*\*\*\*

I wholeheartedly support the proposed Bottle bill. Anything to get more discarded waste in to the recycling system is a big plus for the environment.

Regards  
President Newtown Forest Association  
Bob Eckenrode

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I am writing in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am very concerned about recycling plastics. Requiring a deposit on water bottles will encourage return of them for recycling. No other method would be as successful. Many other advances in recycling could also be offered, but in this bill you have a chance to make a very considerable advancement. It is encouraging to me to know of this possibility, and I urge you very strongly to support this bill. Thank you in advance for your work on this issue.

Marlys Elliott  
74 County Home Road Thompson, CT. (2008)

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March 10, 2008

Testimony in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages, with CT using over 425 million in 2005, one and a half times that of sodas and four times those of teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined.

I can't go ANYWHERE in Stamford without seeing water bottles lying in our Parks, streets and waters' edges (I fish) and the litter from these bottles is criminal.

Redemption is the only concrete way to reduce this mess. Recycling won't do it. The bottled water crowd is either thinks it's too privileged to pick one up or pick up after themselves. What ever the case, few containers without a redemption value get into the recycling system. Even the State Capital plans to stop serving and using Bottled water.

Pass S.B No. 357, please.  
Richard L. Emmons  
240 WARDWELL STREET - SUITE 22 STAMFORD CT 06902 (2008)

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CAROLYN HARDIN ENGELHARDT  
203-248-7247, 20 Broadfield Road, Hamden, CT 06517  
Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Because more and more people use water bottles, all the time, everywhere, which was not the case when the recycling of bottles began, we need your action on this legislation to keep up with the times, to take care of our environment, and to help us be good stewards having something positive to do with all bottles.

Thank you for hearing my voice encouraging your action.

Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt

20 Broadfield Road Hamden, CT 06517 (2008)

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To whom it may concern,

As a concerned citizen of Connecticut, I am strongly in favor of the need to recycle used bottles. This should be made much easier than at present moment. This new legislation would start helping reduce waste in our state.

Please pass this law which would help our environment.

Sincerely,

Wolf Erlich

35 copper Valley Court Cheshire, CT 06410 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Anthony Esposito

I am very much in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

We should be doing everything we can to Make America Green. The bottle bill is only one part of this. It is well known and verified by numerous studies that a deposit fee is the best way known at this time to encourage container recycling. Besides preventing litter, these bottles are a petroleum product. By recycling these bottles, we are conserving a scarce and increasingly expensive resource. Just because the bottlers are against it is no reason not to pass it. They just don't want the inconvenience. Well, it is time for everyone in America to do their share, whatever

it may be, to reduce greenhouse gases and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This is a simple thing, already proven effective. I can't, for the life of me, see any reason why this has not already been made law, except for the bottle lobby. Shame On You, bottlers!!! The patriotic thing to do is to step up to the plate and \*DO YOUR PART\*.

Anthony Esposito

79 Meyers Rd Bethany CT 06524 (2008)

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I urge you to please support Bottle Bill SB661.

I wonder if folks realize that it takes 50-80 years for a plastic bottle to break down, and of course they would have to be blind not to know that the mess sure ain't pretty.

I could go on and on about the merits of this bill, but I don't want to write a book and I know you do not want to read one.

Your endorsement of SB661 would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Louise W. Fabrykiewicz

281 State Street 6G New London, Connecticut 06320-6330

\*\*\*\*\*

Please vote in support of SB661

Mimi Fahy

522 Swanson Cresc. Milford, CT 06461

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of David B. Fairman

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Please support SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers which updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices for the following reasons:

- Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.
- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four

times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled

BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

- Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. the plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Thank You!

David B. Fairman

184 Oswegatchie Road Waterford, CT 06385. (2008)

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I strongly support Bill (SB661) to add deposits to containers holding water and other beverages: sports drinks, tea & juices. It makes no sense to me that there is currently just a deposit for soda and beer containers when there are many more containers sold every day for other beverages. Please pass this legislation so that there will be an incentive for people to keep these containers out of the trash.

Judith E. Falango

132 Summerfield Gardens Shelton 06484

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This is to encourage you to work assiduously on the bottle bill SD 661....we surely need to do something SOON about the glut of plastic bottles in our environment.

Joan L. Faust

11 Field Road Riverside, CT 06878

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#### AAC EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

I am writing in earnest to urge the passing of the bill which would expand Connecticut's deposit redemption program to include water bottles.

I am a teacher and the mother of two small children. My husband, Michael, is a radiologist at St. Francis Hospital. We are transplants to Connecticut from Manhattan where we witnessed the social and economic effects of urban deposit redemption programs. When I lived in New York, a large population of underserved individuals, mostly homeless, made a living redeeming cans and bottles. One gentleman in my neighborhood told me about his elaborate collection systems and how he felt good about doing a job that helped the environment. While I don't claim that bottle redemption programs are the answer to urban poverty, I do believe the system worked well in our former neighborhood. Here in Avon, the demographic is more homogeneous than New York's Upper East Side. Here, it is safe to say people can survive without redeeming cans and bottles. However, because of heightened awareness of the importance of staying hydrated and the fast-paced "soccer-mom" routines that require a lot of time in mini vans, there's a water bottle frenzy in Avon and in communities across the state. I rarely visit a home where the hosts serve anything but bottled water. Despite oil prices and water prices, for that matter, bottled water serves a purpose in our daily lives. Therefore it is imperative that you, as our elected officials, act responsibly and appropriately to add bottled water to the list of redeemable containers in Connecticut.

One of my passions is teaching young people to find small ways to contribute to sustainability and eco-responsibility on a local level. The simple but powerful act of using a water bottle, returning it and receiving money to then be used for a community project will be a valuable lesson for even the youngest child. It won't take long to see the social, economic and environmental benefits to passing this timely and essential bill.

If you need more convincing, you are welcome to tour the crevasses of my own mini-van, clogged with empty and half-empty Poland Spring, Dasani and (my favorite) Icelandic containers. They're waiting, impatiently, to be recycled. Please

acknowledge the frenzy. Make them redeemable!  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Firestone  
Avon (2008)

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To Sen.Ed Meyer and Rep. Roy,  
I would like you to support the upcoming bottle bill SB661 as a way of decreasing the unnecessary littering of our streets and dump sites w/ the large number of plastic bottles. I know you are both looking out for the interest of the ecological state of Ct and beyond. Thank you.

Vicki L Fisher  
221 Flag Marsh Rd Guilford,CT 06437-1859

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As a member of Irving A. Robbins Middle School's environmental group, Green Team, I am obviously very concerned about the state our world is in and what it has the potential to become. Not only is environmental protection at the utmost of importance, but it is also vital that we continue to preserve the world we live in to ensure its, well, survival in the years that come. As the Bottle Bill evolves in Congress, Green Team would like to pledge its full-hearted support to said bill. This bill would not require the citizens of our state to drastically change their way of living, and this is an appealing factor of the bill to residents of Farmington in particular. As middle-school students who would typically be classified as environment enemies, Green Team members defy this norm, preferring to take this opportunity to help a cause that should be of utmost importance to all of us. Green Team's support of the Bottle Bill will definitely continue up until the long-awaited happily ever after: when the bill is passed.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Sarah Fisher  
Eighth Grade Student  
Irving A. Robbins Middle School  
Sarah Fisher  
Farmington, CT (2008)

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I recommend you endorse the comprehensive bill, SB661. The first deposit bill started the recycle movement now the revamp would encourage/demand your constituents to not litter and pollute with the empties but return them for their refund. 10 cents in this economy is REAL money not to be dismissed as "chump change".

CJ Foster  
33 Odell Ave Milford CT 06460

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We hope you will support the comprehensive bottle bill.  
Julius and Jane Fraser

1 Winding Lane West Westport, CT 06880

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of John Freedman  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I believe that the state should include water bottles as items to be recycled at redemption centers. It is simply good sense to do so. It is essential that we reduce the amount of waste going into incinerators, or ending up tossed out into the landscape. Incinerator tipping fees keep going up. The cost of disposal comes right out of the taxpayers pockets. And while plastic has a high BTU value compared to other waste, burning it releases great quantities of CO2 into the atmosphere, exacerbating an already serious problem. Additionally, the replacement of these bottles with raw materials relies on the refinement of petroleum, requiring additional energy, and the use of a raw material that is expensive and is a non-renewable resource

The passage of original bottle bill, first introduced by Rep. Mary Mushinsky, was controversial. Consumers grumbled about the inconvenience and store owners who had to provide redemption equipment, grumbled about having to bear the cost of operation of that equipment (and I'd bet that they're still grumbling about it, and strongly opposing this bill). But soft drink container recycling in this state has been a terrific success story. Redemption center programs are proven to be a much more effective and cost efficient way of recycling than curb-side programs run by local municipalities.

We already have both the consumer habit and the infrastructure in place. This one is a no-brainer.

John Freedman  
35 Lincoln Park Road Preston, CT (2008)

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To: The Environment Committee

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy

I am Chair of PACE (PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR CLEAN ENERGY, INC.) the largest all-volunteer energy organization in Connecticut. Our interest in the bottle bill is based on the fact that recycling saves energy. We believe that if every bottle in Connecticut were recycled, we would be able to reduce energy use drastically. Instead of manufacturing new bottles, we would basically reuse the materials. Energy would also be saved in the disposal of the discarded items. Of course, the added income would also be a positive factor.

I urge you to help Connecticut continue to move forward as a leadership state in energy conservation and recycling. Please support SB661.

Thank you for your good work on this important committee.

Judi Friedman

101 Lawton Rd. Canton, Ct. 06019

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Dear Senator Meyer, Rep. Roy and Senator Roraback:

I endorse the bottle bill, SB661. The materials should be recycled to reduce the waste stream, and improved recycling will also help our towns with reduced trash tipping fees. Also, the less waste, the less expensive land will be needed for landfills. I believe the proposed \$.10 per container is not an updated deposit fee and is absurdly low. The deposits should be higher, say, \$.20-.25, to better encourage those who don't recycle to "just do it."

Thank you for voting for the bottle bill and Andrew Roraback, thank you, too.

Sincerely,

Betsy Glassman

Litchfield, CT 06759-3323

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Marion Glick

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

I urge you to vote for the expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles. The number of discarded water bottles has grown tremendously. Thus they must be included in the beverage container redemption provisions.

Marion Glick

229 Stony Creek Road Branford, CT 06405. (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Bert Goff

In favor of S.B. No. 661

Connecticut's current BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 661 updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

WHY WATER BOTTLES?

- Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages. The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%.

- Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan's overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. The plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Bert Goff

65 Legion Rd New Milford;

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Please support the bottle bill. The amount of waste from those other bottles is shameful.

Marcy Golden

811 Hillside Rd. Fairfield Ct. 06824

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I do support the bottle bill. I understand the stores are resisting it because they do not have room for storage. We might take an idea from the Europeans who either provide deposit bins in the parking lots of stores, or in some small towns and villages, have bins in a central location - all of them marked for separate types of recyclables - e.g. clear bottles, green bottles, etc. etc.

Katy Goldschmidt

27 Woods Grove Westport CT

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:  
Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Louise Golub

] In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

As a proponent of all recycling, I am delighted to see that the state of CT may soon require deposits on water bottles. Many of these bottles do not get recycled, but instead litter our roads or land in the garbage.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

The Bottle Bill that we already have in place has kept millions of soda bottles from becoming garbage or litter. When it was passed, consumers were not buying bottled water in the quantities that they do now. Please take this opportunity to expand the requirement to the rapidly growing area of water bottles.

Louise Golub

16 Marlborough Road Norwalk CT (2008)

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I support this year's Bottle Bills because they're no-brainers -- they reduce litter, "tax" wastefulness and environmental disrespect, and teach young people, especially, the value of recycling. They provide incentives for "good behavior," and are an easy way to start educating students about being "civic-minded." I hope you'll support at least one of these bills!!!

Chris Goodrich

80 Obtuse Hill Road Brookfield, CT 06804

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I strongly support the SB661 Bottle bill - it is so important and so very necessary to help in the care of our environment. Please pass on this message.

Linda Goodyear

374 Hollow Tree Ridge Rd Darien, Ct. 06820

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Please convey my support for the bottle bill before the CT Legislature.

Thank you for doing this.

Best,

Professor of Mass Communications

School of Communications

Quinnipiac University

Hamden, CT 06518

John M. Gourlie

69 Boston Street Guilford, CT 06437-2802

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Greta V. Grant, Barry J. Grant, Kristen W. Grant, Kenyon M. Grant  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I fervently believe that water bottles should be included in the beverage container redemption provisions.  
Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.  
SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.  
- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!  
- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.  
- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?  
- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.  
- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.  
- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

Greta, Barry, Kristen, and Kenyon Grant  
434 New Road Avon, CT 06001. (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Environment Committee March 10, 2008.

Testimony of Scott Gray.  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.  
Please help us reduce the volume of material in our landfill.

Scott Gray  
5 Fall Mtn. Terrace Terryville CT. (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
My wife, Paula Cassidy, and I support the new bottle bill, increasing deposits, increasing the bottles covered, escheats going to the state, etc.

Stan Greenbaum and Paula Cassidy  
88 Town Farm Road New Milford, CT 06776  
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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Gregg Grippo  
In FAVOR of S.B.# 357 - An Act concerning the expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to include water bottles.  
I also happen to live close to a convenience store, which allows me the joy of picking up litter every day around my property, of which, more than half is recyclable.  
I would like to see the Bottle Bill expanded,...idealy, not for only water bottles, but ALL bottles. I would also Like to see a aggressive AD campaign aimed at reducing litter,...like the memorable commercials of the 60's.  
...But all this is simply too much to ask for...or is it?  
well...I'll settle for ridding the curb of water bottles for now!  
Sincerely,  
Gregg Grippo  
209 Boswell Ave, NORWICH, Ct. (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

I am a graduate student at Yale University and even though Yale has recycling bins in most buildings, I see a ton of bottles getting thrown away. It hasn't become second nature for most people to recycle plastic bottles in the way that it has for glass and aluminum. My hope is that with a ten cent deposit, there will be a stronger incentive for organizations and individuals alike to recycle these bottles.

Julia Guarneri  
113 Canner Street #2 New Haven, CT 06511

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Please pass SB661. it is important to get the litter out of our environment  
thank you  
Roy Guild

122 great hill pond rd. portland ct.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I would encourage both committee chairs to vigorously support the most extensive bottle bill possible, and to fight for a 10 cent deposit. Every state legislator should walk a mile along any state road and count the empty water and sports drink bottles before they vote on this matter. I see many such bottles along the road but very few soda cans. Don't let the grocery and beverage industry tell you curbside recycling works, because the evidence shows otherwise.

Rich Hall  
3 Hampton Court Guilford, CT 06437

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I support the bottle bill.

J.M. Hancock  
(2008)

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Please support and pass comprehensive bottle bill HB661. We must put aside the long running debate and impact the massive problem of plastic beverage bottles by passing this bill. The problem of plastic bottles is emblematic of a deep denial of our culture to take responsibility for living more collaboratively with the natural world, and our unwillingness to be accountable to social and economic justice in the world. This bottles destroy both the environment and hopes for a sustainable economy. Please take steps to recognize the long term economic benefit of creating a sustainable economy by improving the constructive use of this unnecessary waste stream.

I strongly support legislators and legislation that take a stand for a positive future in which we eliminate waste, and move toward a just, sustainable world. You can take a step in this direction by passing this bill. Please do not hesitate any longer - there is no viable excuse.

Plastic water bottles are a horrific reality of our culture. Passing this law will provide real, tangible improvements to the environmental and economic devastation associated with these bottles.

Michael G. Harris  
15 Main Street PO Box 74 East Haddam, CT 06423

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Environmental Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Susan G. Harrison

In favor of S.B. No.357 An ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am also a member and past President of The Litchfield Garden Club and we support this 100%. I am totally in favor of this expansion because Bottled Water is the single largest growth area among all beverages. CT's bottle bill has already reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass. CT bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to the CT Taxpayers. Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the CT Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. Failure to reduce the amount of trash generated overall means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of CT annually in less than 20 years.

Susan G. Harrison  
160 E. Shore Road Morris, CT 06763 (2008)

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Mary Heffernon

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I am Vice-Chair, Wallingford Conservation Commission and Treasurer, Wallingford Land Trust

I don't feel the need to go into a lot of detail about the success of the bottle bill here in Connecticut over the years, the items which can be made out of recycled plastic water bottles, or the carbon dioxide released into the air when unrecycled plastic water bottles are burned. We will take these as a given, and I will report solely on my own observations as a person who spends as much time outdoors as possible.

Over the past 10 years, as people have become more and more accustomed to purchasing bottled water and taking it with them everywhere they go, I have seen more and more of the empty bottles tossed into the woods where I am hiking, along the

beaches, in town and state parks, in vacant lots, along roadsides, on the sidewalks, outside of public buildings, inside of public buildings, and frequently on my front lawn. They are as ubiquitous as the stone walls of New England, but hold much less charm. I am tired of picking them up everywhere I go.

I am also keenly aware of the fact that plastic is not one of the items that the state mandates we recycle. The majority of the public places I go do not even have a receptacle available for recyclable plastics, so these bottles are either being put in with the rest of the trash, or tossed summarily elsewhere. I also estimate, as I drive down the streets on recycling day, that close to 50% of people have no recycling bins out at the curb. Where are these people putting their recyclables? Clearly, they need an incentive to keep plastic water bottles out of the trash stream.

Putting a monetary value on something seems to be the only way to make people in our society pay attention to it. We have seen it work with soda bottles, and now we must stand up to those who feel it might be hard for the companies they represent, or it might cost them a bit of money initially. We know that this is a solution that works, and that it is the right thing to do. We know that the state will be cleaner for it, and, along the way, we can pass on better habits to the next

Mary Heffernon

168 East Side Drive Wallingford, CT

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Jennifer Henkind, Stamford CT

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

As a parent, physician, and citizen it is critical that this important legislation be passed. Our environment is under a tremendous amount of stress and a "bottle bill" is a crucial step to protecting our planet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Henkind

48 Eastover Rd. Stamford CT 06905. (2008)

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In favor of HB661 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am a member of the Board of Selectmen in Wilton, and I am in favor of HB661 because it is the right thing to do for our environment. We have worked hard in Wilton to develop and Energy Commission, and to protect our open spaces and our wildlife. We trust that you will be working hard in Hartford to help our environment by reducing waste and pollution.

Ted Hoffstatter

201 Deer Run Rd Wilton, CT

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I want to go on record as supporting the two bottle bills: SB661 that adds deposits for water and other beverages: sports drinks, tea, juices and/or SB662 that includes only water. Any reduction in the number of plastics going into our oceans and adding to our trash is more than welcome, and maybe we'll discourage the use of plastic bottles for drinking water.

Taffy Holland

106 Whippoorwill Road Old Lyme, CT 06371

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Gentlemen:

I support passing the bottle bill.

Our present bottle bill was implemented quite some time ago. Our social economy has changed since that time and our environment has gotten worse. The implementation of this bill will bring us up to what's needed now. This update to the deposit system will capture all the new litter and send it to recycling where it belongs.

For this reason, please endorse the comprehensive bill, SB 661, in your committee.

Thank you.

Allen Horner

216 Belleview Avenue Southington, CT 06489-3734

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Please vote in favor of the bottle bill, so we provide an incentive for increased recycling of plastic in CT. The state can also use the revenue!

Vince Hough

237 West Norwalk Rd. Norwalk, CT 06850

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Dear Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Environment Committee

I believe that it is time, or well past time, to update the bottle bill. I feel that the bottle bill helps the environment in at least 2 ways. First, it promotes responsibility by the user of the bottle or can by giving them financial benefit to proper treatment of the container. But when that fails, there is an incentive to those with more time than income to use those discarded containers

as a source of supplemental income.

When the original bill was passed, the vast majority of those containers were either soda or alcoholic beverages. Now the convenience store has more space for the "others" category than for sodas. So what was a very good move then for soda and beer is still a good idea, and SHOULD include water, juice and sport drinks.

I also feel that the increase from \$.05 to \$.10 would further help to keep those containers out of the ditch, out of the trash, and into recycling as they should be.

As a side point, when I explain my recycling habits to my children, the recycle bin at the transfer station shows our family cares, but the bottle deposit shows that Connecticut cares about the environment.

Greg Howard

47 Heron Hill Rd Amston, CT 06231-1649

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Lisl Meredith Huebner

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

To Whom It May Concern:

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

WHY WATER BOTTLES?

- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

Respectfully,

Lisl Meredith Huebner

184 Johnnycake Mountain Road Burlington, CT 06013 (2008)

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I am in full support of expanding the Bottle Bill. Recycling is one of the largest ways one can protect the environment. Expansion of the bill will encourage more people to recycle. Also, since the unclaimed bottle deposits could go towards further environmental issues, it is no question that it is beneficial and should be implemented. As a kid I would deposit bottles all the time to add money to my weekly allowance. The bill should be updated so that the new generation can have fun with protect our planet.

Chester Hughes

29 Willis St New Haven, CT 06511

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Linda R. Isham

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

It's time to do this. Connecticut's current bottle bill has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. More than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers. And now there is the opportunity to expand this – an opportunity to reduce litter even more, and save more energy.

Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages so it only makes sense to expand the bill to include them.

I summer in Maine and regularly redeem water bottles there and would gladly do it here.

Linda R. Isham

212 E. Bass Ln., Suffield, CT (2008)

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It's pretty obvious that we need to maintain the levying of the bottle deposit. Even with the deposit we end up with a lot of containers lying on the side of the road.

It's pretty obvious that the bottling industry, in collusion with the retail outlets, has little interest in ensuring that consumers are reimbursed for their deposits. Stores have no problems at all charging deposits, but it seems impossible for the bottle return function to work well -- to the great benefit of the bottling industry and to the detriment of the consumer.

It's pretty obvious that if anyone benefits from this lax, poorly monitored system it shouldn't be the people who designed this lax, poorly monitored system.

The state should immediately capture bottle deposits. The bottle deposit program should be expanded to include all bottled beverage containers.

Thanks

Susan J Llorca  
8 Watering Lane Norwalk CT 06850

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Rob Jackson  
In favor of S.B. No. 661

There was a little girl on the beach throwing starfish back into the sea. A woman passing by wondered aloud why the little girl would bother, there were just too many starfish to really make a difference. The little girl responded, as she threw one, and yet another, back in, "it mattered to that one, and this one, and this one".

And so it goes with bottles, whether glass, plastic, juice, soda or water. One Bottle at a time does make a difference.

We must pass this bill.

Thank you,

Rob Jackson  
8 Woodside Avenue Westport, CT.

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of David James  
In favor of S.B. No. SB661

To the proponents of shortsighted return, change is a burden unless it produces immediate personal benefit, even where a greater personal and social benefit would result from that change. Such is the case regarding S.B. 661. I have read arguments pro and con about expanding bottle redemption to include more commonly purchased water products. Relative to the myriad benefits, environmental and financial, for the State of CT, there seems little merit to the retail "burden" argument at the heart of maintaining the status quo. The bottle bill has been a

tremendous success for CT and there is no reason it's expansion would not produce equally positive results. Figures I have seen show redemption more than twice as effective as curbside recycling, due in part to away from home consumption. This is exactly the type of legislation state government should be passing. I can personally attest to the proliferation of discarded plastic water containers, as can any observant citizen, because as a walker who has always taken pride in his residential area, I constantly find myself filling garbage bags full of the obnoxious items.

Thank you.

David James  
11 Carl St. Meriden, CT

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Sister Catherine Jemapete  
in favor of S.B.No.357 An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to include Water Bottles.

After learning about the huge expansion growth of consumer use of bottled water and of the great success that the Connecticut Bottle Bill acquired re: recycling, conservation, reducing of littering, plus the raising of thousands of dollars to aid Connecticut Schools/Community Groups I strongly urge the passing of the Bottle Water Bill. Thank you for your help/service.

Sister Catherine Jemapete  
345 Belden Hill Road Wilton, CT. 06897-3800 (2008)

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I support the bottle bill to improve efforts at recycling.

Sarah C. Jennings  
38 Northwood Rd. Newington, CT 06111

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I understand that this Monday the Bottle Bill, SB661, a bill that will extend a 10-cent deposit to plastic water, juice, tea, and soda bottles will go before the Environment Committee of the state legislature. I would like to express my full support of this bill. The bill will not only boost efforts to recycle but also to keep our state clean. This bill can bring only positive effects and should be passed unanimously. Thank you for your efforts in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ahna Johnson  
97 Wakefield Street Hamden, CT 06517

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Anything that helps clean up the environment is a good thing. Maybe we can get all those water bottles off the roadsides. Please support the bottle bill.

Sherry Karraker  
278 Poverty Hollow Road Redding, CT 06896

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I hope Toni Boucher will join other supporters of SB661 to put a surcharge on all bottled beverages including water. It doesn't make sense to do this to beer and sodas and not water and other drinks. Please do the right thing: make the drink companies responsible for the waste and litter that these bottles create in Connecticut.

Hugh Karraker  
278 Poverty Hollow Road Redding, CT 06896

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I support SB 661 because I believe it will reduce litter and trash volume, while increasing recycling. To me it seems perfectly reasonable to add non-carbonated beverages to the carbonated ones for which we already collect a deposit. I also support increasing the deposit to \$.10 because I believe it will further increase the percentage of containers returned for recycling. It seems to me these are sensible measures that have been far too long in coming.

Katherine Wilson  
39 Montclair Dr. West Hartford, CT 06107

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm writing to you in favor of adoption of either of the proposed "bottle bills", SB 661 and SB662, preferably SB661. I'm delighted to see this subject before the legislature again, and hope that this time one of these bills will gain passage. Anyone with one eye and a half ounce of intellectual honesty must acknowledge that the vast preponderance of roadside litter that we see these days (aside from plastic bags and discarded fast food debris) is made up of juice containers and the ubiquitous plastic water bottles, with nary a soda can or beer container to be found. This disjuncture is not due to chance! It has everything to do with the fact that one class of containers bears a deposit, while the others do not.

It is far past time to stop sacrificing the wellbeing of the people at large to the silly and transparent pleadings of the beverage industry. We have at our disposal a well-proven mechanism for dealing with an ongoing problem. Let's use it!

Peter Katz  
489 Ocean Ave. West Haven, CT

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Environment Committee March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Joseph Kaufman

In favor of S.B. 357 an act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles.

I feel that this bill will greatly help clean up the local environment as well as save much needed space in landfills and also save energy. There is great upside and at no cost to taxpayers. Thank you

Joseph Kaufman  
738 West Lake Ave Guilford, Ct. (2008)

\*\*\*\*\*

Environment Committee March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Dan Kazienko

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I believe the passage of this act will encourage many to recycle these containers that now litter our roadsides and parks. It is important that every citizen contribute to saving our resources.

Dan Kazienko  
(2008)

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Testimony of Monica Keady in favor of S.B. No. HB661 an act concerning the expansion of beverage container redemption provisions to include deposits for water and other beverages.

The increased use of bottled water should be matched with an incentive to recycle containers. Expanding the Bottle Bill would go a long way to support conservation efforts in this state. Connecticut is starting to show leadership in addressing

climate change and expanding the bill would push the state further in the right direction. According to the Sierra Club, Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers. Water bottles represent the single largest growth area among all beverages and are, therefore, a good candidate for the 10 cent deposit program. Recycling PET makes sense both environmentally and economically by reducing our dependence on petroleum and offering business opportunities as more and more products can be made with recycled PET. The 10 cent deposit incentive is critical because it bears no cost to communities and greatly increases the likelihood that these containers will be recycled and not become part of the waste stream.

Industry leaders are starting to realize the need to increase recycling efforts. Nestle Waters North America recently announced a commitment to an industry-wide 60% PET plastic bottle recycling rate by 2018 for U.S. beverage makers who use PET. (<http://www.asyousow.org/publications/NWNA%20release%2010-23-08.pdf>). Hopefully, other manufacturers will follow this lead. Less than 25% of US PET plastic bottle waste is recycled; the rest goes to landfills and incinerators. According to a report by As You Sow, Waste & Opportunity, U.S. Beverage Container Recycling Scorecard and Report, 2008 (<http://www.asyousow.org/publications/2008/ExecutiveSummary2008.pdf>) research finds that in order to minimize the use of natural resources, boost U.S. energy security, and positively address climate concerns, all beverage companies should:

- Commit to source reduction and improved recyclability of beverage containers
  - Commit to using the highest possible levels of post consumer recycled content in beverage containers
  - Commit to a set of measurable, sustainable, national and company-specific goals to recover at least 70% of beverage containers
  - Support public policies that significantly increase the recycling of beverage containers
  - Commit sufficient human and financial resources to be able to deliver on beverage container recycling commitments
  - Publicly report on their beverage container recycling progress each year
- The Bottle Bill should have been expanded years ago and it's important to push this legislation through in this session. This will send a strong message to consumers and manufacturers to start taking action on recycling and other issues related to our environment and climate change.

Thank you.

Monica Keady  
3 Hillside Court Darien, CT.

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I Sara Keane support the bottle bill. Thank you for your efforts.  
Sara Keane

16 Bayside Road Old Saybrook

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We heartily endorse passage of SB661, adding an additional 5-cent deposit to all bottles included in the bill: sports drinks, water, tea, juices. We walk daily and have picked up along the roadside enough water & juice bottles to fill a freight car. Our state representative is Kevin Ryan, my state senator is Edith Prague, our zip code is

Martha and John Kendall

186 E. Hebron Tpk., Lebanon, CT 06249

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Patricia F. Kenney

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I want the legislature to pass this bill. Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices to include water bottles. Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.

Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

Without the five-cent incentive these water bottles will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

Thank you,  
Pat Kenney  
Patricia F. Kenney  
93 Orchard Street, Meriden, CT 06450-3453. (2008)

\*\*\*\*\*  
SB661 is a vitally important bill to encourage recycling, decrease littering and encourage conservation of our resources. For over 30 years we have felt passionately about this initiative and are very encouraged to see a bill brought forth in Connecticut.  
Sarah Baird and Ben Kerman  
165 Tokeneke Dr No Haven, CT 06473

\*\*\*\*\*  
Dear Legislators,  
I am writing to express my support for the water bottle recycling bill.  
It is important to reduce the manufacturing toxicity from the production of these bottles and their solid waste adding to landfills.

Richard Ketai  
(2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

The expansion of the bottle bill has the ability to be a solution for many current problems. The issues transcend everything from pollution to financial troubles currently affecting our society. The current Bottle Bill is severely outdated. A dramatic change in lifestyle has introduced products such as bottled waters, sports drinks and other beverages. This has led to an increase to the production of plastics, hence the ever growing abundance of waste. If we expand the Bottle Bill to other plastic based products, it would give more incentive to the general public to recycle, therefore offsetting some of our waste production. In the current times, we are also faced with many budget problems. If we use the unclaimed deposit of bottles we would have potential to help agencies that are at risk of losing a lot of funding. The result would be a chance to augment possible budget cuts in the future.

Michael Kilmer  
39 William St New Haven, CT 05611  
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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Laurie Klein  
In Favor of S.B. No 661

I feel it is extremely important to pass this bill to get plastic water bottles included with recyclables. As a petroleum based product it is essential to get these bottles out of the waste stream to prevent them from being burned and adding to the carbon in the environment. Connecticut should take the lead in curbing greenhouse gases and this is an easy way to do it. These bottles are also strewn everywhere, they don't break down and will remain where they are tossed for a thousand years.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Klein  
140 Harmon St. Hamden, CT.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I couldn't agree more that we MUST pass a bottle bill for water AND for all other beverages included in SB661. Long overdue!  
Please pass along my strong sentiments for passage of this bill.

Linda Klein  
Linda Klein  
107 Autumn Street New Haven, CT 06511-2220  
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Environment Committee – Connecticut Legislature 3/10/08  
Testimony of Frank Keen and Sally Knowlton-Keen  
in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGECONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

We strongly urge you to pass the proposed new bottle bill that will include plastic water bottles. Our current bottle and can bill has already worked to reduce waste of our world's natural resources and pollution in our state. However since the passage of that bill plastic water bottles have become hugely popular and are filling our land fills and littering our roadsides. We can think of no reason not to include water containers. If you can please let us know, otherwise we beg of you, PLEASE add bottled water containers to Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Frank Keen and Sally Knowlton-Keen  
12½ Edgehill Drive Darien, CT 06820. (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

It is my true and sincere feeling that this bill will help prevent litter and provide some much needed revenue to the state.  
Lisa Koehl

26 Mason Hill Road Brooklyn, CT 06234

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Please add my name to the list of those in favor of the bottle bill.

Mary L. Kohnstamm  
New Canaan, Ct. (2008)

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Environment Committee:

I have followed the arguments for and against the expansion of the bottle bill for past several years. I have also followed the efforts put forth by such groups as the grocery store chains working against the expansion of this bill.

Since its inception, the nickle deposit law has provided a clear monetary incentive to recycle. This incentive has greatly helped to reduce the amount of litter reaching our streets, public lands, rivers and streams. It has provided incentive to "pick up" this trash-or money for some- carelessly tossed by others.

Removing this immediate incentive to "clean up" tossed bottles and cans or to properly return them for recycling is a step or three backwards. The vast majority of litter that I see is the ever popular water bottle-often still full of water! The single stream recycling plan will not address the issue of litter-and the pollution of our rivers, lakes and streams from this litter.

Removing the immediate financial incentive-removes the incentive -period.

Please, take the bold step to build in more environmental protection. Add water bottles to the nickle deposit law, increase the deposit amount - but do not move to single stream recycling for the current deposit items. A strong educational approach and other incentive programs can increase the amount the average household and business recycles. The "bottle room" is a chore for the grocery store-but it is and should be one that is acceptable for the health our environment. Please do not cave in to this pressure. Please do not underestimate the incentive that

single nickle has to get garbage off the streets and into the recycling stream. Let us do more-not less-please expand the current law to include water bottles.

Thank you.

Cathy S. Kohut  
20 Easton Road Monroe, CT

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I think this is a very important bill which will generate monies direly needed as well as removing trash we don't need to accumulate...a good idea and a win win...

Jill Kotch  
Redding, CT

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Abigail Krich

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I strongly urge the legislature to pass this bill to expand beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles. Beverage containers covered by the bottle deposit are currently more than twice as likely to be recycled than bottles without a deposit. There is no more effective way for Connecticut to reduce the number of bottles being thrown away. This bill would reduce the amount of garbage needing disposal in the state, reduce the amount of wasted petroleum product, and would cost the Connecticut taxpayers no extra money.

Abigail Krich  
35 Edwards St New Haven, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Mary Kroft

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

After seeing the number of water bottles that are being thrown into the trash bins, I am concerned with the waste of recyclable materials, and am concerned with how these will fill up our landfills and pollute our air. Since the cost of such a program is minimal for all concerned, I want to encourage the legislature to pass this bill.

Thanks!

Mary Kroft  
45 Jefferson Rd., Branford, CT 06405 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Matthew Kwasniewski

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I would like the legislature to pass this bill. With the number of bottled water being sold now, it makes sense to include them also. It would also help with the discarded bottles from littering the land. I see more bottle water containers than soda. This could be a solution to the problem of discarded water bottles. We could try. Thanks!

Matthew Kwasniewski  
223 Bloomongdale Road Quaker Hill, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Marc LaComb

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I believe that the Bottle Bill has done a fantastic job in cutting down on litter, and has helped to conserve our dwindling natural resources by recycling the plastic for countless other uses. As a long time kayaker I have been bothered by the water bottles carelessly disposed of because some people see no benefit to disposing of them properly. I feel by extending the Bottle Bill to cover water bottles it will be an incentive to recycle as well as reduce litter helping in two ways.

Marc LaComb  
295 Curtiss Street Southington, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Lauren Lanham

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I would like the legislature to pass this bill. It would be an enormous help to our state and to the environment. Thank you very much.

Lauren Lanham  
205 Veres St. Fairfield, CT 06824

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Testimony of Susan C. Larson

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil. It is absolutely necessary to include water bottles in the redemption provisions. We should have been doing this right along!

Susan Larson  
26 Midfield Drive Apt. 10 Waterbury, CT 06705 (2008)

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Yes I support the bottle bill.

Jean Layton  
Black Rock Bridgeport, CT 066056

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Please pass this bill NOW!

katherine a leek  
3 hubbard rd wilton, ct 06897

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Melissa Leonard

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I am in favor of expanding the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles because they are still a huge source of pollution in our rivers and streams. During the numerous Earth Day and random cleanups that I've done in my neighborhood, water bottles outnumber carbonated beverage bottles by far. And it's a rare occasion when I don't retrieve at least one water bottle during a kayak trip in this state. I'm confident that adding a deposit to those bottles will produce the same reduction in bottle litter that the deposit on carbonated beverages has produced.

Considering the surge in bottle water usage (an 800% increase in less than 10 years), this is the logical next step to show Connecticut's commitment to cleaning up our communities. Mandatory curbside recycling places a financial burden on towns while a redemption program offers a financial rebate to consumers. The success rate of the bottle redemption program (65-70%) is more than twice that of curbside recycling programs (30%).

Recycling more plastic bottles would conserve petroleum as well as reduce carbon dioxide emissions from trash incineration facilities. It's an essential step in reducing the state's wastestream which, at its current level, is projected to be above

capacity by 2020, resulting in more expense to taxpayers to ship waste out of state.  
Please pass this bill. It's an easy solution to numerous problems that our communities and our world face. Thank you.  
Melissa Leonard  
450 Gunntown Rd Naugatuck, CT.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Legislators:

I am requesting an upgrade to the bottle bill to include water bottles and would be happy to see returnables/ deposits for ALL plastic containers, and more biodegradable containers where possible.

Thanks,

Guy Lindsay

307 East Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to express strong support for the current proposal to strengthen and extend Connecticut's bottle bill- supporting both the increase in deposit amount as well as extension of the law's provisions to additional types of receptacles...

I have lived on Rt 53 in Norwalk - on the Norwalk/Wilton border - for the past 11 years, and have been appalled at the shocking number of cans and bottles of all sorts that are discarded on the roadside each and every day. As a consequence, I have felt compelled to "adopt" the one mile stretch of road between the Norwalk/Wilton border and the Merritt Parkway and have spent an average of one to two hours each and every week retrieving these discarded receptacle and ensuring they are properly recycled. What I have observed over the years is that an

increasing percentage of the bottles I retrieve are those that are not presently covered by the current outdated bill.

My belief is that the new bill will have the combined positive effects of 1) increasing recycling of bottles and cans, 2) reducing the eyesore these bottles and cans create when discarded on the side of the road, and 3) potentially helping law enforcement officers enforce drinking and driving laws - since there is at least a small chance that those that drink and drive will be less inclined to toss their more valuable "empties" out the window - thus increasing the odds that a law enforcement officer might actually catch offenders with evidence in their cars...(Re this last point, I live close to Cranbury Park, where teenagers have historically congregated to drink during the warmer months of the year...During those months, the roads from Cranbury Park are littered with bags and boxes of beer cans tossed by revelers that dont want to be caught with the empties in their cars...)

I strongly urge all Connecticut lawmakers to cast their votes in favor of this bill.

Lawrence Losio

342 Chestnut Hill Rd Norwalk, CT 06851  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Rep. Roy and Senator Meyer,

**THIS IS A TIME OF CHANGE AND HOPE - FINALLY!**

PLEASE add your enthusiastic support for the new bottle bill SB 661 which includes water and other beverages before your committee. PLEASE PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT and raise the deposit to 10 cents.

We're among those many many families who have active athletes on all kinds of sports fields. After games, it is appalling to see how many plastic bottles - water/sports drinks - are left behind. Yes, we try to pick up some of the plastic bottles, as do some others but **IT IS LONG OVERDUE TO INCLUDE WATER AND SPORTS DRINKS - in the redemption laws.**

We hope you will persuade your colleagues on the Environment Committee to give their FULL support to this bill and give us "little people" hope that industries with their lobbying dollars don't have the final say!

Sincerely,

Laura Lytton and Rich Zelisko

25 Nob Hill Road Cheshire, CT 06410  
\*\*\*\*\*

Despite the current 5 cent deposit on beverage bottles and cans, many beverage receptacles, including a vast number of those for water, are thrown out on streets and highways in this state. We need to include these as returnable because water is now treated as a sellable beverage. We should also raise the deposit to 10 cents in order to be able to retrieve even more containers that are still going into garbage cans. To the retort that people in Connecticut have curbside recycling for water bottles, we must clarify that not all towns do and many apartment and condominium developments do not participate in their towns' curbside recycling. Private handlers may or may not include recycling as part of their pick up. Supermarkets have efficient systems set up already to handle the extra bottles.

Craig Machado

214 Alps Road #29 Branford, CT 06405  
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I, Neil Mackillop, support an extension of the current "Bottle bill" such that it would include all bottles such as those for water, fruit juice, etc. I would also like to see the deposit increased to 10c.

I believe that the data supports that the recycling rate is much higher (approx 70%) when incentivized a financial deposit than when it depends on curbside recycling (approx 30%)

Thanks

Neil Mackillop  
50 Pequot Ave New London, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Joseph J Marganski  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE  
CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I would like the legislature to pass the bottle bill expansion which includes water bottles. We are filling up our land and polluting our resources with these bottles. These plastic bottles should be recycled and be reused over and over again. With a shortage of fossil fuel we need to wake up and recycle more of our disposable products. The next step should be to ban plastic grocery bags.

Joseph J Marganski  
9 Farmview Lane Guilford CT

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Freda Margiloff  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I understand the necessity to conserve resources. I am in Africa working to help get water to people who have so little. Plastic water bottles here have been put into use by using them to kill bacteria by the UV rays of the sun. If the bottles can be recycled it is better than throwing them by the roadside for some one to pick up as litter. I approve of this bill and hope it will pass the legislator

Freda Margiloff  
2 Putnam Hill Greenwich, Ct (2008)

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Thanks for taking testimony on the bottle bill. As a person who sponsors two cleanups per year along the West Haven shoreline, I can attest to the wanton way in which most people discard their water bottles -- we find far more of the nondeposit bottles than we do of those that have deposits on them. And most people do not recycle these, as is demonstrated by the large number that can be found in public trash barrels.

However, in addition to extending the deposit to all disposable drink containers, we need to have a massive public information campaign on how decadent and purposeless bottled water is. The goal should be to end bottled water altogether. The public needs to be informed on what's involved with getting that bottle of tap water to their store shelf, the pointless consumption of fossil fuel (in energy and raw material) to make the bottle, to bottle that (typically) tap water, to haul it somewhere else in the country or the world, and finally to haul it home.

So it isn't just about the litter that water bottles contribute to our landscapes. It's also the wasteful decadence ensconced in the very notion of bottling water when we as a society have already invested billions of dollars to ensure that we have safe potable water delivered to our taps, and if that's not good enough, we have many options (Brita, e.g.) to further filter that water ourselves.

Many thanks,  
Robert E. Marra  
109 Anderson Ave West Haven CT

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Palmer D. Marrin  
Environmental Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of: Palmer Marrin  
In favor of SB 357 An act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption provision to include water bottles. I am Palmer Marrin, Living in Litchfield, CT where we have an extensive recycling program. However I very much in favor of adding water bottles to the redemption category. Water is the new oil, or will be in the very near future as seen by the increasing consumption. Everyone needs to be accountable for our trash/ bottles/ waste. Please consider passing this bill.

Sincerely,  
Palmer Marrin  
199 East Litchfield Rd Litchfield, CT 06759 (2008)

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I was thrilled to read in the newspaper that the bottle bill discussion has reopened. I had written to you last year when the debate was underway, but this year I have even more reason to support the current legislation - HB661. Every other week, the night before "recycle day," my 8 year old son and I go around the neighborhood and collect all the returnables, both from

the bins and the garbage cans. We take them back to the store and get our nickels back. Then my son divides the money between buying food for the Sterling House food pantry, putting some in his college savings account, and spending on things he wants. I think it's a good use for many items that would otherwise end up in the trash stream.

We have an ongoing discussion about what is and is not eligible for the deposit and refund program. As the newspaper article mentioned, trying to explain to a child deposits and refunds being allowed on a soda can or on a sparkling water bottle but not on sports drink cans or "regular" water bottles is impossible. My son just says "what a rip-off" as we walk by bin after bin literally overflowing with water, sports drink, tea and other non-deposit beverage containers, not to mention the bottles and cans we can see poking out of the garbage bags.

Likewise, when I go to public places, it sickens me to see all the bottles, often mainly water bottles, just thrown in the trash and headed for a landfill where they will sit for thousands of years. It's crazy that people do not realize the amount of energy and cost to the environment of manufacturing a plastic bottle, putting water in it, shipping it around the country, and then letting it sit in a landfill somewhere. Most everyone in Connecticut has drinkable water, and there is no reason for the massive amounts of bottled water that people have convinced ourselves that we need to drink.

Sports drinks, teas, other beverages also have all massively expanded their market in the past 10-15 years and the laws have not kept up with that consumer trend. When I read numbers like 70 or 80% of bottles in other areas being returned once a bottle bill is introduced, I feel like we, in Connecticut, have to do something similar for ourselves, our environment, and our children.

I would support simply expanding the current deposit of a nickel to all beverages, although a dime would certainly be even more of an incentive to people. I cannot see passing any bill, however, that does not include additional types of containers beyond carbonated and alcoholic.

I thank you for time and I look forward to hearing that Connecticut has taken another step toward being more environmentally friendly while helping the State itself with some additional revenue.

J.E. Martin

368 Windsor Ave. Stratford, CT 06614

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I am in full support of the bottle bill.

Debra Mason

5 Jonathan Road Wallingford, CT 06492

\*\*\*\*\*

I Lyndon M. McAllister am in favor of HB.#661 An Act Concerning The Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Water Bottles.

When I talk to my Envirothon Students, I tell them that, in my opinion, the Environment is the single most important issue in the world today, it affects every aspect of our lives. Without clean air to breath, water to drink, and soil to grow our food in; what do we have?

I am also president and founder of P.E.A.C.E. People's Earth Action for the Conservation of the Environment, we've been doing clean-ups in Eastern Ct. since 1974 from Soapstone Mtn. in Somers, to Pilgrims Landing in E. Lyme. and Riverside Park in New London.

As much as I love doing clean-ups ( Its a great way of bringing like minded people together) I would appreciate some help and if you pass the x-panded bottle bill it will be a wonderful way to help homeless people. It will put some xtra change in their pockets ( as a person in recovery i've made up to 200 dollars a day canning) and be a blessing to the community.

When people ask me if I'm an artist, I tell them that the landscape is my canvass.

Lyndon M. McAllister

25 Chappell St New London Ct. 06320

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Lourdes McEttrick

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I am writing to express how important I think it is that the Legislature passes this bottle bill. As nearly everyone knows, we are in an environmental crisis. Expansion of the bottle bill will help reduce litter, save energy.

With the growth of the bottled water industry it only makes sense to include water bottles as part of the Bottle Bill. These plastic containers can be easily recycled in new containers, textiles & other products. These are petroleum based products, so recycling them makes so much more sense than creating new.

There is no harm and only upside with passing this bill. It doesn't cost the state or towns anything, and it encourages increased recycling of a petrochemical product. We know that the 5 cent deposit significantly increases the recycling rate of products - we should it expand it to include to one of the most common beverage packages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lourdes McEttrick

38 University Drive Fairfield, CT 06824-3931

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To the Environment Committee, Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,  
I'm glad to see Connecticut addressing this issue. I strongly support these bottle bills, SB661 and SB662. I highly recommend the passage of SB661. When Connecticut passed its original bottle bill, I was pleased. While it put a deposit on beer and soda, lately I find it doesn't go far enough. Wildly popular spring water, sports drinks, teas and juices have made the current law outdated. I volunteer some time at my local transfer station and the vast amount of plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans that I see pass through there on the way to a landfill is shocking and wasteful. These bills need serious consideration and passage, especially SB661.

Eugene A. McIntyre  
10 Shepaug Rd. Sandy Hook CT 06482

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I urge you to support SB661, the comprehensive Bottle Bill. The old bottle bill, which has served Connecticut for years, is sadly outdated. It is time to update the deposit system to capture this litter stream and send it to recycling. As I walk and drive around our town, and other towns in Connecticut, I see many bottles and cans on the roadsides, which can and should be recycled, but instead are sullyng the scenery of this beautiful state. Unfortunately some people need a financial incentive not to litter, and with the huge increase in the consumption of non-carbonated soft drinks and bottled water, the old bill isn't working anymore. Again, I urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Peter McKnight  
59 Robin Lane Fairfield CT 06824-3939

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,  
Please vote in favor of the Bottle Bill and lend it the support of your leadership in Monday's committee meeting. It is a common-sense measure that will help clean up Connecticut AND bring much-needed funds to the state. In this climate of budgetary hardship, we have to think creatively about increasing revenue in ways that will help citizens, not take more money from their pockets. The Bottle Bill is a straightforward, easy-to-implement way to do this, and its time has come at last.

In addition, the bill will encourage recycling. Plastic bottles are a significant portion of the litter we see on roadways and beaches, and add to the waste stream into our landfills. On its own, plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose, all the while leaching chemicals into the air, soil, and water. Recycling the bottles is both the aesthetic, healthy, and resource-smart choice.

I urge you to support SB 661, the comprehensive version that will include juice, soda, and tea bottles in addition to water bottles. Please also maintain a 10 cent deposit, which will be a more effective incentive and will increase revenue proportionally more than a lower rate would.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Laura McMillan

71 Canner St New Haven, CT 06511

\*\*\*\*\*

I favor enactment of a comprehensive bottle recycling bill (SB661). This is a logical next step in reducing the solid waste stream, and long overdue.

Wayne A. Meeks  
6 Brookhaven Rd Hamden, CT 06517

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Required deposits on bottles has proven over many decades to work to clear the area of debris. It solves a "tragedy of the commons" problem by creating an incentive (dollar value) for collection of used bottles. It also incorporates the external cost (community trash left uncollected) into the original purchase price so the consumer bears the full expense. I support the concept of this bill and urge state congress members to support it.

Nancy C. Messer  
200 Soundview Ave. Stamford 06902

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Sarah W. Middleleer  
In favor of S.B. No. 661

I urge the legislature to pass this bill. Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers. Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages. The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed

from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined.

Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything. 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

Sincerely,

Sarah W. Middleleer

Sarah W. Middleleer

7 South Main Street Newtown, CT 06470

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Bruce Montgomerie in favor of: S.B. No. 661

Dear Committee Members:

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 661 updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

WHY WATER BOTTLES?

- Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.

- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005 --- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. The plan plainly states: "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Even these recycling goals are too modest. We need to do better for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

Enactment of this Bill will be an important step towards keeping our State clean, conserving resources and helping to reduce global warming. Our State should set an example to all by enacting this Bill. Failure to enact this Bill is another fatal step towards preserving "business as usual", which will doom the future of the Planet.

Please take the right steps now!!!

Thank your for your attention.

Bruce Montgomerie

Bruce Montgomerie

142 Interlaken Road Lakeville, Connecticut 06039  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Land Trust of Danbury strongly supports Connecticut bill SB661, which adds deposits for water and other beverages, e.g., sports drinks, tea, juices. We also support Connecticut bill SB662, which includes only water bottles, but greatly prefer the more comprehensive SB661.

The Land Trust of Danbury has regular hands on experience with the problem of bottle litter (water, sports drinks, etc.) and other waste. Land Trust volunteers have performed regular roadside cleanups for over eight years. We can tell you that the majority of waste is comprised of exactly the variety of bottles specified in SB661.

Long practical experience tells us a significant deposit is certainly needed to encourage recycling and minimize the waste of natural resources and energy. We strongly urge support of SB661 and will be urging Senator McLachlan and Representatives Bartlett, Giegler, Godfrey and Taborsak to support it also.

Sincerely,  
Bill Montgomery  
President  
The Land Trust of Danbury  
Bill Montgomery  
PO Box 32 Danbury, CT 06813

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I strongly endorse comprehensive bill, HB661 to add deposits for bottles for water and other beverages: sports drinks, tea, juices. This bill is great. The present bottle bill has been effective in diverting some cans and bottles from litter to recycling. Why should water and other bottles be exempt? It doesn't make any sense!!! Look at all the plastic water bottles littering our state. They should be recycled, even if it places an additional burden on sellers. They'll just pass the additional cost on to the consumer anyway. After all, if you can afford to pay a dollar for something you can get for free right out of the tap, you should be able to pay the slight additional cost for recycling.

Yours truly,  
Chuck Morgan  
123 Jordan Road Willimantic CT 06226

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My name is John Mulready and I work for the Town of South Windsor. Many times, I have seen plastic bottles rolling around on our town roads on windy days. Ultimately, many of these wayward bottles end up getting crushed by cars and then rainwater sweeps them to the catch basins where they are carried to culverts, detention ponds, and bodies of water. I feel the bill would address this concern and help ensure the containers end up where they belong. Thank You!!!

John Mulready  
39 Elm St. South Windsor, CT 06074

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March 9, 2008  
To: the Connecticut Legislature  
Re: The Bottle Bill

I urge you to pass this bill. How can anyone who has seen "An Inconvenient Truth" or even know about it, vote in good conscience against a bottle bill.

Think about your grandchildren. What kind of an earth do you want them to live in?  
It's time to face the "inconvenient truth", stop being ostriches and change our ways for a better earth and a better future.  
**BE BRAVE! VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE BOTTLE BILL!**

Karen Nangle  
324 Thorpe Avenue Meriden, Connecticut 06450-7133 (2008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

I am writing to you to ask that you support the Bottle Bill SB661. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sian Nimkoff  
50 Fern Valley Road Weston, CT 06883  
\*\*\*\*\*

I thoroughly support the bottle bill which would help to assure bottles are recycled.  
I also support a charge for plastic grocery bags ... or banning them altogether ... which, I think, are the cause of so much environmental degradation.

Thanks for your interest in these vital issues.  
Pat O'Brien  
37 Cricket Court Old Saybrook CT

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Elsa Peterson Obuchowski  
In favor of S.B. No. 3661

I'm very happy to know that CT is considering expanding the 10-cent deposit program to water bottles. You see water bottles everywhere -- you see people drinking bottled water and you see the discarded bottles. Many times the person can't find a recycling container so the bottles just get thrown in the regular trash. The 5-cent deposit encourages people to return them, and I would hope that the revenue would be used to improve the environment as well. I hope this bill will pass.

Elsa Peterson Obuchowski  
41 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851

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2/1/09

To the Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs,

I am writing to you today to implore you to endorse the comprehensive bill, SB661, scheduled for a public hearing this Monday, Feb. 2. As a citizen of Connecticut, an outdoor enthusiast, and concerned environmentalist, I fully support passing this important bottle bill. I see first hand, the daily compounding piles of water, sports drinks, tea, and juice bottles littering our precious world. I personally have taken countless hours to collect such thoughtlessly discarded bottles from our local rivers, roadways and woodlands by the bag full... and these are just the few within easy reach! I am often saddened by the fact that they are just tossed aside by those ignorant to the dire environmental impact such refuse has on our precious land and water. The time has come to update the deposit system to capture this litter stream and send it to recycling where it belongs!

Again, I implore you to do the right thing for us all and endorse the comprehensive bill, SB661.

Thank you,  
Carole Osborn

26 Coppermine Road Oxford, CT 0678-1734

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I strongly support extension of "bottle bill" for all containers of liquids, whether plastic or glass, whether for things people drink or wash clothes or floors with.

Ben Page

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Testimony In favor of S.B. No. 661

Plastic Bottles are made from petroleum. We should be discouraging their use and encouraging their recycling whenever possible to avoid wasting this precious limited natural resource. Petroleum production has hit a plateau worldwide, and the price will continue to increase until eventually, by the end of this century, the oil will all be gone.

Conservation is a virtue, and it serves the common good. This is the role of government: to 'promote the general welfare.'

I emphatically recommend three courses of action, to be undertaken together, immediately.

1. Expand redemption programs to include plastic bottles.
2. Mandate that all towns make curbside recycling of plastic bottles available.
3. Make use of bottled water illegal for state agencies, and launch an education campaign to discourage use of bottled water. This campaign should educate the public to the environmental hazards of bottled water, and should inform citizens of the high safety standards of tap water.

Please do the right thing for the environment, this is you responsibility, because without a healthy environment, nothing else matters - it's like your health - If you haven't got that - you don't have anything.

-Sincerely, Justin Paglino

Justin Paglino

26 Cedar Hill Rd. New Haven, CT

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I would like to add my support for the comprehensive bottle bill SB661. Bottle deposits have been proven to work quite well over the years to reduce bottle litter and provide additional revenues. They also bring attention to wastefulness of these products, particularly the single-serving containers. I know most people buy bottled beverages for their convenience, but these products are terribly wasteful, so adding some cost to promote recycling is at least a step in the right direction.

Lydia C. Pan

8 Schooner Drive Mystic, CT 06355

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I am thoroughly disgusted with the amount of plastic water bottles I see strewn all over the streets, roads sidewalks and even forested trails. I also see just as many juice containers discarded everywhere!

Its time for the legislature to show some true leadership and put an end to this littering everywhere.

Currently, Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 661 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan'

overall recycling goal of 58%.

Sincerely,

Rodney Parlee  
76 Brookfield Rd Bolton, CT 06043

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To the Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs;  
We would like to add our voices to support passing SB661 "The Bottle Bill". It is important to recycle all materials that we can and here is a clear source of litter which we have the technology to recycle. This step is long overdue, please pass the Bottle Bill this session.

Susan Eastwood and Anthony Paticchio  
178 Waterfall Road Ashford, CT 06278-2331

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I just wanted to add my support to the motion to add water bottles to the 5 cent redemption program. I think it would greatly cut down on their litter, cost, and waste.

Linda Pearson  
(2008)

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Please support the upcoming bottle bill SB661. Although this may not seem like the most urgent measure, especially in a time of economic crisis this bill offers the state of Connecticut a unique opportunity to incentivize recycling. It's a shame to know that America has some of the lowest recycling rates in the developed world. I'm sure you know about the success of larger deposits in Europe. While the industry may not be the biggest advocate – if at all, passage of this bill will not only bring about an environmental benefit, but the lower and middle-class (those who are perhaps struggling the most) will have another means to redeem cash at a time of financial hardship. State coffers will also reap benefits.

It's going to be a long time until we reach reasonable recycling rates in America – this is a start. With global populations splurging and natural resources becoming less abundant it only makes sense that recycling needs to play a critical role for the future. It would be great to see Connecticut lead a green initiative and boost recycling at home. Sadly, the only way this gets done is through incentives.

On a final note, if this bill passes the bottle return machines and the overall recycling system would benefit from a few improvements. For example, imagine how many more aluminum cans you could recycle if they could be crushed before bagging for the store. Machines currently do not accept crushed cans. It would be so much more efficient to crush cans, bag them up and return them for a refund – the bar code can go on the bottom of the can.

Thanks for you support,  
Matt Pentz

5 Colonial Drive Clinton, CT 06413

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Environment Committee - Sen. Meyer, Rep Roy, Chairs;

I fully support SB661 which requires a deposit for water and other beverages ie sports drinks, tea, juice,milk. I would recommend a 10 cent deposit on large bottles and a 5 cent deposit on small bottles.

This deposit system will help to cut back on the amount of litter created by these easily discarded bottles, put change in the pockets of citizens who return them AND our state could take advantage of the unredeemed deposits adding a substantial income for CT.

Katherine A Peterson  
33 Orchard St Terryville, CT 06786-6015

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March 8, 2008

To Whom it May Concern,

I support expansion of the bottle bill. It makes good environmental sense, and would help clean up our roadways and streams. As a consumer, it is a painless bill, just a matter of returning more bottles with my usual returns. Even for a retailer, an expanded bottle bill just means that they will have to expand their current efforts. It is a win-win bill, and I hope the legislature will support it.

June Peterson  
44 Ashpohtag Road Norfolk, CT 06058 (2008)

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To whom it may concern:

One only has to go to a state like Virginia that does not have a bottle bill to see the tremendous amount of roadside trash and debris that litter the highways and streets.

Although there is voluntary recycling, there is still a great deal of recyclable trash that is going into landfills. Trash and litter cost big money, and we, here in Connecticut, need to reduce

expenditures and maintain the beauty that draws people here. Please consider the bottle bill carefully and pass the most comprehensive legislation possible to ensure that our state and its citizens save money and keep Connecticut beautiful.

Marcia Peterson  
13 Fenwick Drive Farmington, CT 06032 (2008)  
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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Martha Phillips,  
Vice President, Litchfield Garden Club  
In favor of S.B. No. 357

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.**

I have long been a supporter of expanding the existing bottle deposit and return system to include water bottles. Even though this is a short session of the legislature, there is still an opportunity to make this long needed change. The bill that currently under consideration would expand the current system only to personal water bottles. Therefore, all the arguments that we have heard in the past about the difficulties posed by sticky, smelly, bug-attracting juice bottles does not apply. In fact, returned water bottles are cleaner than the soda and beer bottles that are being recycled in the current system. I hope the committees will bring this legislation up for a vote in BOTH bodies this year, and not allow it to be referred to a committee dominated by grocery and bottling interests that will kill it -- as has happened before. Far too many bottles go into land fills and roadside trash and do not end up in recycling where they belong and are needed. Expanding the current system to include water bottles will help bring this stream of reusable plastic into the recycling stream. The citizens of the state support this measure. I hope you will too.

Martha Phillips  
21 Bexley Court Goshen, CT. (2008)  
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I am in favor of the passing of Bill S.B. No 357 An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to include Water Bottle. I am a walker in Canton and West Simsbury and it is with much dismay that I report that the greatest litter I see along our beautiful roadways are water bottles. It is my hope that this bill will help to relieve some of this unsightly litter.

Pat Piano  
33 Rocklyn Drive West Simsbury, Ct. 06092.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Nancy R. Pistone  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

??  
With the plethora of water bottles sold throughout the state of Connecticut, it is imperative to expand the Redemption Program to include them. This would not cost the towns anything, and 30 years of Bottle Bill success has proven that the offering of a five-cent deposit incentive would be a more effective method of collection and reuse of these ubiquitous plastic bottles than curbside recycling alone.

Nancy R. Pistone  
292 Painter Hill Rd. Roxbury, CT 06783. (2008)  
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Hello Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs.  
Rep. Joseph C. Serra - District 33, Sen. Paul R. Doyle - District 9:  
I would like let you know that I endorse bill SB661 here in Connecticut. I think that it is important to curb the massive mess of that is created by water bottles and the fact that they do not have a deposit. I think that it is important to assign this part of the drink industry a higher deposit to make people think twice before they just toss their empty bottles. I see it on my street all of the time, bottles just dropped by runners who no longer need them. At my sons athletic events, bottles strewn every where after the games are over and no one bothers to pick them up! I think it is your responsibility at this point to change the law and to make the citizenry of Connecticut responsible for the natural beauty of our state.

Constance St. Onge Post  
25 Charles Mary Dr. Middletown, CT 06457  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please support the bottle bill. We need the revenue and we need to protect the environment. What better way to do it!  
Thank you,

Stacy Prince  
5 Little Lane Westport, CT 06880

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We strongly support the Bottle Bill, SB661, as both additional incentive to recycle & keep our state litter-free, and as a means of providing revenue support to Connecticut. It is a win-win situation for all.

Thank you for all you do.

Jennifer Pryor  
35 Pearl Street Mystic, CT 06355

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Donald P. Quinn III  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I desperately want the legislature to pass this bill. We have waited too long and fought too hard already. I can't think of a single valid reason to not pass this bill. All the arguments against passing this bill are just lame excuses. I believe when you do the right thing the universe rewards you for your actions. Passing this bill is simply the right thing to do. The right thing for our environment, the economy, and our childrens' future.

Donald Quinn III  
145 Mill Hill Rd. Colchester, CT. (2008)

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Cynthia Rabinowitz

In favor of S.B. No. 661

This is to request the Legislature to pass the proposed bottle bill which will encourage the return and recycling of so many more plastic water bottles in our state.

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

However, even with these good results I am deeply pained by the bottle and can trash I see on our road shoulders even in rural Bethlehem when I take my daily walks. This enhancement to the law will take more bottles out of the litter train which is damaging our environment. So many of these plastic bottles end up degrading into the soil, clogging up stormwater structures and otherwise creating an eyesore.

Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Cynthia Rabinowitz  
90 Cabbage Lane Bethlehem, Conn.

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I strongly urge passage of SB357 to recycle bottled water containers. Whether considering how much the Bottle Bill has reduced litter, saved energy and conserved valuable resources or how much it has benefitted schools and community groups at ZERO cost to taxpayers - everything points to the need to pass SB357. Once again, I most strongly urge that you work for its passage. Thank you. Sincerely,

Mili Rapp  
(2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Ray Rauth  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Each spring I pick up the trash for about a quarter of a mile on each side of Georgetown Road. It usually runs about 10 shopping bags. Much of the trash is plastic bottles and much of that is water bottles.

A ten-cent redemption might cause people to think before they throw these bottles out on the road. And it might make it easier for me to clean up in the spring.

Thanks

Ray Rauth  
254 Georgetown Road Weston CT 06883. (2008)

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I support the bottle bill.

Laura Raymond

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Karen C. Reich

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I'm proud that Connecticut has an active Bottle Bill that has conserved resources and reduced litter. However, much more needs to be done!

The sale of water bottles has skyrocketed in recent years. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!

The recycling of these petroleum based bottles into other products can be profitable and make us less dependent on foreign oil. A redemption program gives people an incentive to recycle and is of no cost to towns or the state. Many towns don't have curbside recycling.

Please consider my concerns on this issue seriously as you make your vote.

Thank you,

Karen C. Reich

34 Oak Bluff Avon, CT, 06001. (2008)

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Environmental Committee Chairs

Hon. State Senator Edward Meyer

Hon Richard F. Roy

Hon. Sirs:

This is ask you to support SB661 and SB662

Connecticut is awash in plastic water bottles. We need legislation that not only includes plastic water bottles, but increases the deposit, thus increasing the incentive for redemption, for all beverage containers. Please. please, please do not let the beverage lobby scuttle this bill as they did in 2005, a shameful affair, indeed.

Respectfully

David J. Reilly

51 Totem Trail Shelton.CT 06484-5444

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Testimony of Emma H. Reiss: in favor of S.B., no.357, an act concerning the expansion of the Beverage Container redemption provisions to include water bottles.

Plastic bottles are a petroleum product and if not recycled, increases our dependence on foreign oil and favors global warming.

Emma Reiss

104 Whittier Road New Haven, Ct.,06515 (2008)

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I would like to add my vote of support on the bottle bill SB661 which is being considered in my state. We desperately need a bill which includes water bottles, sports drinks, and other beverages. Our back roads and high ways are still littered with glass and plastic which people randomly discard. I feel the bottle bill will help eliminate this problem as well as encourage people to properly recycle these materials. My state rep. is Ed Jutila and my Sen. is Andrea Stillman. Respectfully submitted by:

Alana Remley

99 Chesterfield Rd. East Lyme, CT 06333

\*\*\*\*\*

I support Bill SB661 for the simple reason that I saw firsthand the effects of one of the first Bottle Bill in the country. I was growing up in Michigan when the 10 cent deposit on bottles and cans went into effect, and it resulted in a startling change in the physical environment. I urge you to support the bill.

Zoe Resch

109 Hemlock Rd New Haven, CT 06515

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am going on record as in favor of a deposit to be placed on bottled water. It is amazing to me that, in a state with very high standards for drinking water, so many individuals use those highly disposable plastic bottles. Most do not even place them into recycling container, but litter the sides of our streets, parking lots, athletic facilities, and even along our beloved trail systems. I am tired of picking them up!

The above doesn't even address the waste of materials which goes into their manufacture.

Thank you, CT sierra Club for sharing this with the committee reviewing the bills.  
Betty Robinson, member of Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of Mansfield Hollow, Joshua Trust, etc  
Elizabeth A. Robinson  
5C Sycamore Drive Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268 (2008)  
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March 10, 2008

Testimony of Meghan N. Ruta

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I live less than a few hundred yards from Mansfield Hollow State Park where I walk my dog twice daily. It is more often than not that I find discarded plastic bottles thoughtlessly disposed of alongside the trails and in the bushes. After our recent rainstorms the peninsula directly behind the Mansfield Hollow Dam was littered with bottles of this nature. The boom used to prevent debris from entering the dam also had a notable collection of plastic. So, I'm writing this letter to you as a resident of Connecticut, an avid outdoor enthusiast, a member of the state's

environmental professionals, and a supporter of S.B. No. 357 An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions to Include Water Bottles.

As I'm sure you're well aware, failure to properly dispose of and recycle the mounting number of plastic bottles, notably water bottles, is a growing environmental and social concern. It is resulting in excess litter along our streets (which reduces the New England charm of our state and can clog storm drain systems), increased trash volumes heading to our landfills (which result in increased CO2 emissions), and degradation of state lands and water resources (which is simply unacceptable).

Encouraging the responsible choice to recycle the used containers, while discouraging the

unnecessary consumption of these products, is a viable way to prevent the problem from escalating out of control. Especially in the current era of rising oil prices, there really is no excuse for not addressing this problem now. Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleece, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil. As you can see, the reasons for recycling these bottles are numerous; unfortunately since the average consumer likely does not possess this knowledge it is up to you, the State's leaders, to create a system that encourages plastic water bottle recycling.

Connecticut is a beautiful state but as our population grows and consumer preferences change so must our management efforts in order to ensure that the quality of our environment remains constant, if not better. The Connecticut "Bottle Bill" has successfully reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. There is no logical reason for not including plastic water bottles in this legislation. The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed

from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005 - that's over an 800% increase in sales! For the vast majority of us bottled water is a choice, and it is an expensive one both at the register and throughout the life of the product. Therefore, I am asking, along with other supporters of S.B. No. 357, that plastic bottles be included in the State's "Bottle Bill."

In the words of Gaylord Nelson, co-founder of Earth Day, "The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard." I am certain that the ability of our children to enjoy Connecticut's natural resources to the extent that we have been able to is worth much more than five cents a bottle.

Meghan N. Ruta

98 Mansfield Hollow Rd., Mansfield, CT. (2008)  
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Please register my support for SB661 expanding the deposit on drinking containers and increasing the deposit to 10 cents.

Reasons I support the bill are enumerated below:

1. The deposit amount has not increased in 3 decades, and inflation alone would dictate that an increase would be warranted to keep the same level of redemption intended by the legislature when the original bill passed.
2. The use of non-carbonated bottled drinks has expanded exponentially over the past 3 decades, and it was never the legislature's intent to leave such a large amount of materials outside the purview of this bill.
3. The increase to 10 cents will undoubtedly lead to greater redemption rates, less road-side pollution, and cleaner trails in our parks.
4. For those containers not redeemed, the state has a potentially large revenue stream from the escheatments.
5. The consumers may benefit as well- I believe the expansion of the bill may lead to for-profit redemption centers and better and more efficient redemption machines that will speed the redemption process.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

530 Church Hill Rd Trumbull, CT 06611  
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Dear Environment Committee,

I am Laurie R. Salzberg. I live in West Hartford, with my husband and twin infant sons.

I am in favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES and I strongly urge you to pass this legislation! So many water bottles are used every day. Even though they are recyclable, wherever you go, you find them in the garbage -- NOT saved for recycling. That's because there are not enough public places that have receptacles which make it convenient people to recycle.

Yet somehow, you never find as many soda cans in the garbage. That's because there's a tangible value on them! The same value needs to be placed on ubiquitous water bottles! And, as sad as it is to say, this would even help create additional income for the indigent among us who already collect soda cans to get by. EITHER way, it would remove harmful plastic from just ending up in the landfills, never to biodegrade! As a mother of two new children, I want the environment to still be in good shape for them when they get to be my age -- and beyond!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Laurie R. Salzberg

137 Milton Stree West Hartford, CT 06119 (2008)

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Environment Committee

Testimony of Brooke Samuelson

In favor of S.B. No. 3661

The number of water bottles sold in CT has skyrocketed, and there are way too many of these bottles littering our highways, waterways, and open spaces. A cash incentive is necessary to encourage pick up and user return of these bottles in every town and city in CT, including those where curbside is not available. Curbside recycling will not capture the majority of these bottles found strewn about our landscape, and it is an unnecessarily expensive solution to this problem.

Brooke Samuelson

31 Baker Road Chester, CT 06412

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I fully support the bottle bill, as it will provide a strong incentive to people to return all bottles to the store where they were purchased. Please add my name to the list.

Ken Sanford

613 Championship Dr Oxford, CT

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I am in full support of bottle bill SB661.

Noreen P. Saunders

21 Madison Hollow Killingworth, CT 06419

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Barbara Ellen Scanley

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am writing to let you know that I am in favor of passage of this bill to require container redemption provisions for water bottles. I think that passage of this bill will have important positive environmental and economic benefits.

Respectfully,

Barbara Ellen Scanley

30 Mansion St New Haven, CT 06512 (2008)

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Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,

Please endorse SB661. This is legislation that has been needed form many years, but has failed to pass. This year there are reasons enough to pass it to overcome the pressures of beverage manufacture's lobbyists. Some of these reasons are:

1. The income that would come to the state by claiming the escheats would be considerable--much needed in this economy.
2. The sale of bottled water is bad for the environment, because of the petroleum used in producing the bottles and transporting the water to the bottling plants and ultimately to the consumer. The 10-cent addition to the cost of a bottle of water would probably decrease the sales, and therefore decrease the production of bottled water.
3. Adding water and other non-carbonated bottles to the Bottle Bill would decrease the amount of bottles that end up littering the countryside and becoming part of the trash-handling problems in our towns and cities.
4. Handling bottles returned for deposit provides employment.
5. Many people who have little or no employment pick up bottles and turn them in them for the deposit. Some non-profits benefit from turning in donated bottles for the deposit.

It is a good bill, worthy of your endorsement.

Gerhard and Edith Schade

887 Goodale Hill Road Glastonbury, CT 06033-4043

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We strongly urge you to support HB661 to update the State Bottle Bill. We were leaders during the passage of the original 1978 Bottle Bill and are pleased to have saved the state much in resources, fuel, and cost of solid waste disposal as a result of its implementation.

We strongly urge you to support the improvements of HB661 for the following reasons:

--INFLATION for over 30 years certainly justifies at least a 10 cent deposit now.

--ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES of this bill are several including potential revenue for the State of millions from unclaimed deposits; this revenue is not a tax since the bottle can be returned for a refund. Further, communities save money due to lower costs of litter control and trash disposal. Also, jobs are created in the recycling sector with the increased bottle returns and revenue which this bill would generate.

--ENERGY AND RESOURCES are saved by the increased recycling. 88% of the energy is saved by producing plastic from plastic rather than from raw materials. One Ton of recycled plastic saves 685 gallons of oil.

--CURRENT CONSUMER HABITS are addressed by this bill. Much more bottled water, tea, and juice are consumed than when the original bill was passed.

We urge you to pass this critical legislation.

Virginia and David Schneider  
25 Cassway Road Woodbridge, CT 06525

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Absolutely necessary, why pay for water when it is free? We need to keep working on the five R's.

Greg Schnitzler  
Wilton High School  
Greg Schnitzler  
Wilton (2008)

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To the Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs.

cc: Toni.Boucher@cga.ct.gov, John.Stripp@housegop.ct.gov, Jason.Bartlett@cga.ct.gov

I attended the bottle bill hearing last year and was impressed with the evidence of the waste of energy spent on manufacturing a single bottle of water (the equivalent of one third of a bottle of oil was quoted!) It is very important to update the deposit system to capture this litter stream and send it to recycling. The extra expense might also dissuade people from purchasing such a wasteful way of drinking water!

I recommend you endorse the comprehensive bill, SB 661.

Georgina Scholl MD  
60 Cross Highway Redding, CT 06896

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Environment Committee

March 10 2008

Testimony of David Close Scofield

In favor of SB # 357 an act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions to include water bottles.

Since there is a constant increase in the use of bottled water hence a huge increase in the litter of water bottles I hope these would be added to the bill.

Thanks

David Close Scofield  
12 Kent Rd Warren Ct 06754 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Susan Scott

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am in favor of the expansion of the container redemption provisions to include water bottles.

So many people do not recycle willingly. I hate to see water bottles, so widely used by so many, piled up in people's garbage cans, trash at work and in restaurants, or on the street.

We need this bill so that some people (at least) will think twice about throwing out all that plastic!

Please pass this important act.

Thank you.

Susan Scott  
1644 Plank Rd Cheshire, CT. (2008)

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I think putting a deposit on plastic bottles is long overdue... the plastic is worse for the environment than paper, glass or even

aluminum (especially the oceans) and is always the last to biodegrade. If people could get money back for returning plastic bottles, you would have just as many people collecting those as aluminum cans.

Plastic needs to get recycled!

Alison Seavey  
158 Glenridge Rd. East Stratford, CT 06614

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When the Bottle Bill was passed almost 30 years ago, most of the beverages that came in bottles were carbonated, such as beer and soda. Since then, there has been a proliferation of non-carbonated beverages such as iced teas, juices, energy and sports drinks and especially bottled water – all of which often come in the same types of bottles as soda and beer but for some reason are not covered under the current Bottle Bill.

The five cent deposit is an incentive to recycle bottles, instead of throwing them away or even reducing them to litter. With so many more drinks sold in bottles and cans, the deposit must be extended to adjust to the changes in the beverage industry. Many people drink bottled water exclusively but do not recycle their bottles. Bottles are in much higher circulation now due to bottles that are not even covered under our current Bottle Bill! It is critical that we recycle all our bottles, which is why I also support raising the deposit to ten cents.

When the Bottle Bill is expanded, unredeemed nickels (or dimes!) should go towards funding critical environmental programs. With such a fragile economy, this would give us a way to fund critical programs without having to put a further strain on our taxpayers.

Maryli Secrest  
39 William St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor New Haven, CT 06511

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March 9, 2008  
Environment Committee

March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Ian Duncan Sellars

In favor of S. B. No. 357 An Act Concerning The Expansion Of The Beverage Container Redemption Provisions To Include Water Bottles.

I believe the passage of this bill is imperative for our environment and would urge its passage. Unfortunately it may also be necessary to help keep disposed water bottles from our road sides, parks, waterways, and even hiking trails.

Sincerely,  
Ian Duncan Sellars  
257 Perkins Road Southbury, CT 06488 (2008)

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Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy -- I urge you to pass the bottle bill SB661. I live on a busy corner in Milford and am out there every day picking up an astounding amount of recyclable trash. If the deposit fee is raised to 10 cents people may think twice before chucking the bottle out the car window. It's so saddening that people think nothing of submerging our beautiful state under a deluge of trash. There is so much of it that can be recycled.

Jane Servadio  
158 Cedarhurst Lane Milford CT 06461-2722

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Marjorie Shapiro  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I strongly support the expansion of beverage container redemption to include water bottles. The state of Connecticut has been very successful with soda and beer cans and bottle deposits and redemption. It is highly likely that individuals will comply with redemption of water bottles as they do with soda and beer bottles, especially if there is a deposit included upon purchase.

Thank you,  
Marjorie Shapiro  
952 Rainbow Trail, Orange, CT 06477 (2008)

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Dear Environment Committee:

I support expansion of the bottle bill to include the redemption of water bottles. It is absolutely necessary that we take steps to ensure that water bottles are recycled. The very best way to do that is to add the 5 cent deposit on the bottles.

Patricia Shaskin  
590 Oak Street East Hartford CT 06118 (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Scott C. and Monica A. Shuler

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

We are writing to urge you to pass an act expanding the container redemption law to include water bottles. We are tired of seeing the spread of debris from these bottles everywhere, and concerned that the plastic used to create these bottles will last for centuries in our environment. Please takes steps that lead to recycling and reusing a higher percentage of these containers.

Sincerely,

Scott C. and Monica A. Shuler

21 Ashton Circle Simsbury, CT. (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 6, 2008

Testimony of Robert A. Simms, Jr. In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Please pass this bill. Thanks!

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Simms, Jr

3 Quarry Knoll Greenwich, Connecticut 06830. (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of David A. Skoczylas

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I believe that a deposit on water bottles is a great idea. I have always wondered why only carbonated beverages had the deposit. I believe that a deposit should be added on all plastic and glass bottles, examples including ice tea bottles and liquor bottles. This will help keep the streets clean too.

David A. Skoczylas

85 East Broad Street Plainville, CT 06062. (2008)

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Dear Sen. Meyers and Rep. Richard Roy,

I support passing the bottle bill. This bill will curtail non-deposit bottles that are found lying around in the streets, woods, roadsides, parks, school grounds, beaches, streams, rivers, etc. People will think twice about carelessly discarding a 10 cent deposit bottle. Just think how much cleaner the environment would be, and having those bottles sent to recycling.

Thank you.

Susan Slattery

128 Settlers Ridge Road Milford, CT 06460

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Please add my name in support of the bottle bill legislation.

Currently the water bottle exemption leaves a big hole in the bottle recycling program.

Although water bottles may sometimes recycled by individual towns, there is no real incentive to do so since rebates are not involved.

The bottled water industry is much larger than it was when the original bottle bill was passed. At that time it primarily addressed soft drinks, both cans and plastic bottles and that was a huge part of the plastic bottle industry.

These items need to be recycled and removed from landfills and other types of waste treatment which do not really address the chemical and physical residues that are left behind.

John L Smith

25B Harbour Village Branford, CT 06405

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March 7, 2008

Environment Committee

Testimony of E. Marilyn Smyth

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I walk several miles a day in Ridgefield and I cannot tell you how many water bottles I see tossed away on the road, sidewalks and bushes. It is not feasible for me to pick up all these bottles for recycling, so many are left behind. It seems that there is a subculture existing on picking up returnable bottles and they are seldom seen here. Please do something about the water bottles! I encourage my friends to use stainless steel or plastic refillable bottles, but we need help on every front.

PLEASE HELP OUR STATE AND OUR PLANET BY PASSING THIS BILL.

E. Marilyn Smyth  
8 Quincy Close Ridgefield, CT 06877. (2008)

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I support the extension of deposits to other bottles. When the current deposite was implemented it made a tremendous difference in litter. Today we see much more litter, mostly from non deposit bottles.

Barbara Smyth  
19 Homestead Ave. New Britain, CT 06053

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I am writing to express my support for Bills SB661 and SB 662. I am sure this will successfully address the problem of plastic water bottles lying about our streets, parks and shoreline areas, and/or going directly to the landfills. I and my neighbors pick up this kind of trash regularly, only to find it all over the place again in a day or two.

Storm Somers  
489 Ocean Ave. West Haven, CT 06516-7249

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Lloyd W. Stableford

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

There are so many occasions when I am outdoors: walking, jogging, biking, and hiking. In all of these pursuits I have come to appreciate the environment, the geography around me, whether it is walking in my given neighborhood, jogging on extended loops through surrounding towns, biking long distances or hiking the many trails of Connecticut's state forests.

Unfortunately, while I am sure most fellow enthusiasts are mindful of maintaining the land areas they traverse by not littering, there are numerous others who do not. All too often, I find along the various routes I take, particularly along roadways, water bottles and other plastic containers. It would be a tremendous service to those of us who seek to make the outdoor experience as pristine as possible for your committee to pass this legislation along. It would one more step in cleaning up our environment.

Years and years ago, the public service slogan bandied about in New York City, "Every litter bit helps," can once again serve the people of Connecticut very well indeed.

Always Smile?  
Lloyd W. Stableford

11 Lincoln Street Trumbull (2008)

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Jan. 30, 2009

The Environment Committee  
Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs

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  
5 Sherwood Lane West Simsbury, Ct 06092

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I strongly urge you to support the passage of bill SB661. I am looking forward to spring and my usual 2 mile walk around my suburban neighborhood. Unfortunately, as the snow melts it will review many weeks worth of disposable bottles (water, tea, juice etc) that have been tossed out the windows of careless people. I see far fewer containers with deposits, and know

that some residents actually collect those discards and redeem them. I dutifully pick up many myself, but would have a far more beautiful neighborhood without these eyesores. That is my personal reason, but basically it will benefit everyone, as well as the environment, and our wild critters who often explore these curious plastic remnants to their detriment.

I also urge you to support the 10 cent deposit and that the unclaimed deposits go to the state. No more freebees for companies that should be taking responsibility for the waste they produce. We all pay for that.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Barbara Starr

39 Clearview Ave. Danbury, CT 06811-3332

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To: The Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs.

I VERY STRONGLY support the comprehensive bottle bill(SB661).

This legislation is a great step to reduce the amount of plastic in our environment and obviously it makes sense to do it right and fully and hence SB661 would be the correct choice.

Michelle Stearns

12 Benson Place Fairfield CT

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Sonya Stedman

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

S.B. No. 357 is simple and seems a natural progression of expanding what we have already found successful. As a CT resident I am delighted that this bill is being heard and hope you will do your part to get it passed. I am sure I'd be repeating what you already know as the facts and statistics so I will just say I am in large support of this bill.

Thank You for listening,

Sonya Stedman

209 D Pendleton Hill Rd North Stonington, CT. (2008)

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March 10, 2008

Environment Committee

Testimony of Nancy R. Steinman

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups. In fact, more than 1,000,000,000 Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers- changed beverage consumption choices.

Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages.

- The number of water bottles sold in the US skyrocketed from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 29.8 billion in 2005. Just in Connecticut, we used 426 million water bottles in 2005- one and a half times as many water bottles as soda bottles, and four times as many as the bottles used for teas, fruit drinks and energy drinks combined!!

- Plastic bottles are a petroleum product that can be profitably recycled into new containers, textiles like fleecce, carpet and other products. Failure to recycle these bottles wastes this scarce resource, making us even more dependent on foreign oil.

- Recycled PET is in high demand. And burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

WHY EXPAND THE REDEMPTION PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM?

- Mandating plastic water bottle collection statewide is an unfunded mandate on towns; recycling by the deposit system does not cost the towns or the state anything.

- 65-70% of the containers included in the beverage container redemption program are successfully recycled BECAUSE OF THE FIVE-CENT DEPOSIT INCENTIVE.

- By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

- No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

Recycling 65-70% of these containers instead of wasting them is essential for achieving the Connecticut Solid Waste Plan-s overall recycling goal of 58%. The plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. The

plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Nancy R Steinman  
65 Turner Road Washington, CT 06793 (2008)

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Anne U. Stone

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am in favor expanding deposits to water bottles. This will reduce litter because people will take their bottles to a recycling center for redemption rather than leaving them all over the countryside and will also reduce the amount of trash to be picked up with other garbage at weekly collections.

Thank you.

Anne U. Stone  
14 Bittersweet Lane Farmington, Connecticut. (2008)

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I support the passage of SB 661, the comprehensive bottle bill to extend a 10-cent deposit to plastic water, juice, tea and soda bottles. I value our environment and would like to prevent litter and increase state revenue.

Sara Stone  
68 Salem Straits Darien, CT

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Richard M. Stowe

On S.B. No. 347 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

I first would like to acknowledge legislators who serve on the Environment Committee and more so than many you represent, you understand the global challenges we face regarding our planet's environmental health. Let me assure you I share your genuine concern about these matters. And I very much appreciate your care and diligent legislative efforts.

Furthermore, I thank Jesse Stratton and Martin Mador for leading an effort to convince the Connecticut General Assembly that Connecticut's Beverage Container legislation needs updating.

I concur with that opinion.

I write to encourage the Environment Committee to include water bottles in the framework of the existing Bottle Bill. Please accept others testimony as to why.

FYI, background report on this issue: <http://container-recycling.org> (download report - Water, Water Everywhere: The Growth of Non-Carbonated Beverages in the U.S.)

But I write to challenge each one of you who serves on the Environment Committee to go further than what the environmental community is asking you to do here today.

Here's why.

The business strategy behind bottling with plastic is premised on an anti-localization. The most extreme variant of anti-localization is globalization. It makes sense from a business standpoint to bottle with plastic because of its relative lightness. Therefore, the argument goes that shipping plastic bottles <long distances> uses less petroleum, which the purveyors of plastic argue is good for the environment. Don't hook and sinker swallow that twisted logic.

Plastic is toxic.

Plastic likely contains synthetic chemicals that migrate into beverages and that's not good for human health.

And chemicals in plastic are likely to be endocrine disruptors, which may create havoc on reproduction, puberty, the brain and sexual behavior.

Source: <http://keepitorganic.org/about/>

<http://www.keepitorganic.org/2008/03/05/studies-question-safety-of-polyethylene-terephthalate-pet-plastic-bottles/>

Now before you think that the ills of plastic is just a human health issue, think again - you should see the video Synthetic Sea: Plastics in Open Ocean <http://www.algalita.org/video-order.html> and visit: <http://www.alguita.com/feature.html>. Plastic "nurdles" are accumulating in the North Pacific Gyre in alarming quantities. And that's a threat to the whole ecology.

Currently, the State's residents have almost no consumer choice when it comes to the type of containers available for drinking bottled water. The bottler's nearly universal choice is plastic.

And that poses a health risk that is deep, dramatic and disturbing.

So what's the antidote to plastic? It is glass. Glass is inert. In other words, it is not readily reactive with other elements. So when you drink water in a glass, you're drinking the water, not the glass.

And what's the most environmentally sound way to deliver liquids (water) in glass? Refillable glass bottles – glass bottles that washed, sterilized and re-filled. It's that simple. It's so efficient, when you look at lifecycle costing of refillable glass bottles – the water used to rinse, clean the refillable bottles is much less than other beverage containers.

And the avoided greenhouse gas emissions are even more substantive.

So what can the Environment Committee do? Create standards to certify a standardized refillable glass bottle and incentives for bottlers to use refillable glass bottles.

That's the exact provision contained in Oregon's bottle bill, the nation's first bottle bill statute.

Money from uncollected deposits could be used to set up bottle washing facilities (translation = jobs) in centrally located regions across Connecticut.

Before I moved to Connecticut, I lived in California.

In 1977 I worked for Marin Environmental Cooperative, which was purported then to be the largest recycling operation in the country. And we lobbied the Marin County Board of Supervisors, whose members included Senator Barbara Boxer, to pass a bottle bill.

The year before – 1976, I belonged to the Ecology Club, a food co-op in Laguna Beach. A surfer friend of mine named Alex worked at that co-op.

And when he moved with his family up to Brownsville, Oregon, north of Eugene in 1977, a buddy of mine and I went to visit him one weekend.

We went to a huge party on Saturday night. And when the party was over, the grounds were strewn with bottles – more specifically – standardized refillable glass beer bottles. It was an amazing sight. And we picked up lots of bottles to return for refundable deposits. Refillable standardized glass bottles were environmentally sensible in Oregon in 1977 and are environmentally sensible in Canada today - [http://thebeerstore.ca/AboutUs/environmental\\_leadership.asp](http://thebeerstore.ca/AboutUs/environmental_leadership.asp) (download report - Responsible Stewardship 2006-2007: An Evolving Efficiency)

Refillable glass bottles are the direction Connecticut needs to lead the United States.

We can and should out-environmental California and in doing so the Connecticut General Assembly should reach out to legislatures in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont to join us in our trendsetting refillable glass bottle operations.

Be bold. Include standardized refillable glass container language in SB 347 that will help address the threat posed by plastic that plagues our planet.

Richard M. Stowe

12 Mead Street New Canaan (2008)

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There are never any soda cans tossed into my yard--but many many Poland Spring water bottles. The water is wonderful, but it costs as much to contain it as to contain Pepsi. Please put a deposit on all drinks bottles and cans!

Bill Stubbs

(2008)

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March 7, 2008

Testimony of Thomas, Sheila and Maggie Sullivan

RE: In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

To the State of Connecticut, Environment Committee;

We believe that S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES, will greatly increase recycling of the enormous amount of water bottles that currently end up in our Town landfills. The Connecticut legislative body should be proud of this accomplishment, thank you all for your hard work and determination to pass this required law.

This positive step forward should not be the end though. The fact that PET is in huge demand should spark interest and a plan to capture this revenue and/or help grow the budding new "green" industry. I read that the U.S. companies that want the PET cannot get enough due to low supply but also, have difficulty buying what PET is available because the initial bottle/can collection centers sell it at high price to foreign countries, such as China. (That is an example of the U.S. trade policy not supporting U.S. industries, i.e. the trickle down theory.)

How can Connecticut capitalize on the demand for PET? Isn't it our ultimate goal is to REDUCE garbage? Then I see residential and street recycling receptacles as the missing piece of the puzzle. Let's set another environmental example for the country and mandate water bottle recycling to assist and support the development of a thriving new "green" industry and further ensure a clean, healthy environment for future generations.

Sincerely,

Thomas Sheila and Maggie Sullivan

1194 Black Rock Turnpike Fairfield, C (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Eleanor S. Sullo

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am strongly in favor of expanding the beverage container redemption plan to include water bottles, because water bottles equal one-and-a-half times the number of other beverage containers. Why leave them out of the redemption-recycling plan? Since they are a petroleum product they make us more dependent on oil-producing nations and leave a legacy of endless ever-larger landfills for our grandchildren and their children to deal with in this already polluted earth. Let's recycle water bottles into new products rather than over taxing our natural resources. Let's use the technology available to us and give every CT resident the opportunity to pitch in and keep our earth green. Recycling these containers is nearly effortless, the financial benefits hard to ignore. Please encourage passage Act No. 357 and make a difference.

Sincerely,

Eleanor S. Sullo  
108 Marvin RD Colchester, CT (2008)

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I wish to express my support for bill SB661 putting a deposit on water and other drinks. Working as a Personal Trainer in a YMCA, I see many plastic bottles of water and other beverages, especially sports drinks, tossed out in the regular trash. We have placed blue containers around the facility for the recycling of these bottles, but most still land in the regular garbage. Bill SB661 would do much for our environment by keeping tons of these bottle out of our local incinerator every year.

Kerry Swift  
25 Pocono Ridge Rd. Brookfield, CT 06804

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I strongly endorse the bottle bill. As a consummate recycler, it will be great to see less trash. In addition, the extra revenue will help the state and potentially discourage people from buying bottled water (I know this is a contradiction).

Susan Tabachnick  
655 Jennings Road Fairfield, CT 06824.

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I strongly support expansion of Connecticut's bottle bill to include bottled water and other beverages like sports drinks, tea and juices. The deposit is returned to the buyer when the container is returned to the store so there is really no cost to the consumer. In Danbury, an expansion of the bottle bill would provide a greater stream of income for the homeless and jobless in our city center. It will be a boon to the environment in reducing litter and promoting recycling. It will be a boon to the poor in this horrible economy.

Lynn Taborsak  
110 Hayestown Road Danbury, CT 06811

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My husband & I support the bottle bill SB661. Get the plastic to work for us and out of the dumps.

Jeffrey & Ariane Tallman  
14 Trout Brook Lane Weston, CT 06883

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I strongly support the passing of SB 661 bottle bill in an attempt to end the roadway litter and land fill build up. I am a member of the Redding Country Club where water bottles are available for free at 5 locations on the golf course. I pleaded with management to place recepticles on the course so that the empties could be separated from landfill and recycled. We now have recepticles in place, but many do not observe them. As long as people continue to use and throw water bottles, it in itself being a tremendous waste, I feel the 10 cent charge for redemption will a. help the situation and b. maybe cause people to carry their own bottles and reuse them.

Jean Taylor  
45 Deacon Abbott Rd Redding, CT 06896

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Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,  
Connecticut Environmental Committee

I am writing to ask you to please support SB662 expanding the bottle deposits to include sports drinks, tea, juices, water and other bottles. Passing this bill would decrease litter, encourage recycling, provide financial incentives to recycle and create more jobs associated with the collecting and sorting of recycled materials. States such as Oregon and Vermont have showed reduced state-wide litter by enacting refundable deposits on throwaway beverage containers. So many plastic bottles are discarded in the trash ending up clogging landfills; our roads and landscapes are littered with plastic, aluminum and glass bottles; curbside recycling does not address away from home consumption; and while many other companies are now offering take back programs for products such as computers and refrigerators, beverage companies and distributors create tons of disposable products yet offer no incentives to consumers to help safe guard our environment. It is time for the state of Connecticut to once again take initiative and clean up our environment.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,

Lisa Piastuch Temmen  
Huntingtown Road Newtown, CT 06470

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Please support the bottle bill to make all bottles returnable for a .10 deposit.

Dr Terry Blank  
99 Gutzon Borglum rd Stamford , CT 06903

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I strongly urge passage of SB661.

Muriel W. Test  
103 Jacobs Ter. Middletown, CT 06457

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Frank Thomas  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER  
REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I want the legislature to pass the bill that includes water bottles as an expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions.

Because "Connecticut's BOTTLE BILL has reduced litter, saved energy, conserved valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raised millions of dollars for thousands of Connecticut school and community groups," and because bottled water has become such a large consumer item, it seems a valuable and necessary measure if we are to continue to try to save the environment.

Thank you  
Frank Thomas

3 Main Street South Bethlehem, CT 06751 (2008)

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We wholeheartedly support the Bottle Bill, in order to take another step in cleaning up & saving the environment for our children and grandchildren. We need to CHANGE our destructive habits before it is too late.

We have recycled for the past thirty + years and it has become a way of life. One small price to pay for the benefits that modern life has brought our way.

Peg and Mike Toto  
22 Great Pasture Rd Redding, CT

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This bill is long overdue. The growth in use of disposable bottles for water and other non-carbonated beverages has been huge, and leaving these outside the deposit program no longer makes any sense at all.

Also, inflation has reduced the economic value of the 5 cent deposit almost to insignificance -- it is not an adequate motivator for individuals to recycle, nor, I imagine, is it likely to provide adequate compensation for the various parties involved in maintaining and implementing the overall recycling infrastructure. Frankly, even 10 cents seems very small, particularly if this amount is not automatically indexed for future inflation. Note that the deposit amount need not have any significant economic impact on consumers, except those who fail to return containers for their deposits and in effect want to make a donation to others who will collect their refuse. We owe it to those who do recycle, and to the environment we all share, to make the whole process seem worthwhile and be appropriately valued.

As a personal note, when I was a kid in Alaska in the early 1950's, glass soda bottles (there was no plastic in those days) carried a 10 cent deposit. That was a lot of money in those days -- equivalent to about \$0.75 today -- and we kids saw to it that there were no bottles left littering the roadsides or anywhere else! That was a real incentive.

I haven't heard anything from my supermarket yet this year, but in past years they have lobbied their customers (me!) directly to oppose bottle bills. I found this very disturbing, and if they resort to this again I will certainly talk to local management about their motivations. I can understand that they might prefer from a narrow self-interest point of view to make the redemption issue go away and foist the problem on someone else, but they do have civic responsibilities. I would suggest that the system might best be set up so that there are some reasonable economic incentives for the stores, or at least not disincentives, such that they would consider the program at least business-neutral rather than being a huge burden -- that would improve the redemption facilities and support, enhancing the experience for everyone.

David Tracy  
581 Belden Hill Road Norwalk CT 06850

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Jean-Ellen M. Trapani  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE

CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I support the bottle bill 100%. It provides an incentive for people to pick up litter. It works.

Jean Trapani

12 Warnock Drive Westport, CT 06880. (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Eric Triffin, MPH

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am Director of Health for the city of West Haven and my name is Eric Triffin.

I am speaking both as a municipal director of public health in a coastal community and as a resident of Bethany. The Bottle Bill is worth passing because we could thereby reduce litter, save energy, conserve valuable aluminum, petroleum and glass, and raise money for Connecticut schools, libraries and community groups. In fact, more than a billion Connecticut bottles and cans are returned and recycled each year at no cost to Connecticut taxpayers.

SB 357 AAC Recycling Bottled Water Containers updates the state's successful deposit redemption program to reflect consumers' changed beverage consumption choices. Some places in the world are going so far as to ban plastic water bottles due to their bad effect on the environment and the implication that tap water is not so good.

As a Connecticut leader in public health I want people to be confident and secure about drinking the wonderful water we do have from public water supplies here.

As legislators you should feel proud of our water supply and our State Department of Public Health which regulates it. Encouraging people to drink from plastic bottles is both wasteful and unnecessary, and the deposit can be seen as a healthy dis-incentive to wasting our money on water that often is no better than tap and in fact hurts the environment as well as our bottom line; water, one of our healthiest options is cheap and good here; we need to increase our consumption.

In Bethany, we recycle plastics, newspaper, cardboard, metal glass and mixed paper as well as redeeming returnable cans and bottles to profit our library and other local organizations. By comparison, curbside recycling, which is not available in all Connecticut towns, has only achieved a success rate of about 30%. Mandating curbside or instituting collection systems that require special trucks and receptacles would impose significant additional costs on towns and taxpayers.

No curbside system can capture beverage containers that are consumed away from home and thrown away. Many of these end up at the high tide mark along our beaches and waterways. Without the five-cent incentive these containers will not be brought home and placed in recycling bins. With the incentive, they will be brought back for redemption recycling. 30 years of bottle bill success proves it.

I do see this as a matter of protecting the public health, not only for the health of it physically, but financially, aesthetically, environmentally, and even spiritually. Water is a vital resource and we must protect and promote our natural and local sources in order to protect life and well being in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important public health issue!

Eric Triffin

125 Falls Road Bethany, CT (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of James Troy

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage you to pass S.B. 357, which will provide a deposit for plastic water bottles. This simple measure would have the power to significantly improve plastic bottle recycling, reducing waste and pollution in our state.

Sincerely,

James Troy

P.O. Box 206991 New Haven, CT 06520 (2008)

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Testimony of Joshua Tryon

In favor of S.B. No. 661

I work part time in a large grocery store that receives large numbers of returned cans and plastic and glass bottles. Every week, I find hundreds of plastic water bottles left in the bottle return area by consumers who have brought them in with their returnable items. Unable to return their water bottles, they leave them in the trashcan or on top of the return machines. Each week, I put hundreds of these non-redeemable plastic water bottles into the store's dumpster. The current redemption provisions lead to confusion and frustration among consumers. I

have spoken with many of them who have expressed to me that they would favor the expansion of the redemption provisions to include water bottles because it would simplify their lives. I support S.B. 357 because many people already bring these

bottles to be recycled, so the bill would not require people to change their behavior and it would greatly reduce consumer confusion regarding which bottles are returnable. Passing this bill would allow hundreds of pounds of plastic per year that consumers intend to recycle to be recycled, rather than being sent to landfills.

Joshua Tryon  
640 Merrow Road Coventry, CT

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of William Twomey

In favor of S.B. No. 357 An act concerning the expansion of the beverage container redemption

Please include water bottles in your expansion of the beverage container redemption provisions, because most of the bottles that I see littered everywhere are water bottles.

William Twomey

77 Matthew Drive Stratford, CT 06614. (2008)

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I want to express my whole-hearted support for the proposed comprehensive bottle bill. The logic is obvious as it addresses revenue, recycling and littering issues. Each year I clean up the roadsides for about a hundred yards in the park land adjacent to my home and more than fill a large garbage can each time. Fully a third of the discarded materials are recyclable and half of that would be returnable under the proposed bill. We have given our returnables to various school and other fund-raisers and who would be benefited as well by the expansion under consideration.

Stephen Updegrove

199 Waite St. Hamden, CT

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Please support the bottle bill SB661. This will decrease litter, decrease our impact on global climate change and increase funds in the the State coffers.

William B. Upholt

6 Columbia Street Hartford, CT 06106-1312

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I am asking you to support SB661. Connecticut's bottle bill has reduced litter and increased the recycling rate of beer and carbonated soft-drink containers. The rise in popularity of bottled water, flavored teas, and juices has resulted in an increase in litter that can best be addressed by deposits on their containers. Our experience with the bottle bill have shown that a monetary incentive is the most effective way to reduce litter and increase recycling. While residents in the State have more access to recycling services than they did when the original bill went into effect, these curbside and drop-off programs do not address littering, and do not capture the containers that are consumed away from home. Additionally, reducing the amount of containers handled by these programs would save municipalities—and taxpayers--money.

You may hear arguments from the beverage and grocery industries claiming that an expansion of the bottle bill would increase prices and be a hardship on them. These arguments are unfounded. Beverage prices in bottle bill states are no higher than in non-bottle bill states, and beverage companies and retailers have handled returns in the bottle bill states with for many years with little difficulty.

Jesse Vallely

18 Alexander Drive West Haven, CT 06516

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I am totally in favor of extending the deposit on bottles to all liquid drinks. I support a 10 cents deposit on all bottles and cans too.

Barbara van Achterberg

Easton, Connecticut

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Senator Meyer

Representative Roy

Environment Committee

I am writing to endorse Bottle Bill SB661.

1. The original bill proved very successful for multiple reasons, anti-litter and recycling among them.
2. There has been a shift in drinking patterns to bottled water and other healthier bottled drinks causing a proportionate
3. There has also been an increase in litter of non-deposit containers and there is scant re-cycling effort for same by comparison to for-deposit containers.
4. Cost has always been the driver behind innovation. It may come to pass that alternatives (re-usables - cartons) will become more prevalent.
5. The time value of money has eroded the original economics - even at 10 cents, there wouldn't be parity with 5 cents in 1978 (i.e. less than 2.35% annual compounded increase)

PLEASE NOTE: The escheats should be placed in a fund much like the CT Clean Energy Fund, i.e. dedicated to investment in alternatives and innovation that serve to advance the well being of our State. And they should be hands off to any other use, including budgetary short falls. As with the CCEF, to otherwise appropriate these refundable deposits would be theft, since they are not derived from taxation.

Roger W. van Voorhees  
46 Parkway Fairfield, CT 06824

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of JANE ANDERSON VERCELLI  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

When Connecticut's first bottle bill became law, I was a witness to the dramatic difference it made in our landscape from the first day the bill took effect. I live in a house directly across from historic Thompson Common, a beautiful village green that was littered with bottles when we arrived in 1976. People in passing cars would heave bottles out of the windows with such regularity that it was impossible to keep up with the litter in spite of the efforts of the good citizens of Thompson Hill walking to and from the post office on the perimeter of the common. Many bottles wound up on our lawn, especially when the Thompson Speedway had a race event. Drivers in a "ya-hoo" state of mind would careen around the corner in front of our house on their way to Interstate 395, and after rounding the bend in the road, their passengers would throw bottles onto our grass as if they were male dogs urinating on the lawn to leave a reminder of their having passed by.

The minute the bottle bill took effect, everything changed overnight. The bottles on the common and our lawn completely vanished. It turned out that the Yankee cowboys in a "ya-hoo" state of mind were capitalists at heart. The good citizens of Thompson Hill were capitalists at heart, too, but now that each bottle carried the promise of a refund, there were no bottles to gather up and redeem. Over the years the common and our yard have remained free of bottles except for the plastic water bottles.

I urge you to support the bottle bill to include water bottles because we Americans are all capitalists at heart. We know what we should do, but individuals and businesses alike are more inclined to do the right thing when there is a monetary incentive attached.

SB # 357: Good for our landscape, good for the earth, good for business.

Jane Anderson Vercelli  
376 Thompson Hill Road Thompson, Connecticut 06277 (2008)

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To All State Legislators,

I am writing in support of Bill SB661 and urge you to increase the span of the "bottle bill" to include water, ice tea, gator-aid, and other beverages currently not covered. I know there has been much discussion about whether this bill or other "bottle bill" variations provides the best way to encourage recycling but frankly I think this line of conversation is a red herring. At its heart, the "bottle bill" is about litter control, not recycling methodology. It is about encouraging people to pick up bottles and cans from the wayside and bringing them in for a payment for their services. As a steward for a property owned by the Farmington Land Trust and as a volunteer on last years' Farmington Clean-up Day, I can testify that non-deposit beverage containers are the single largest source of litter on the properties I have cleaned up and deposit beverage containers are rarely found. Why? Because there is a hidden army of people who daily look for, find, pick-up and return containers worth five cents and they ignore those worth nothing. There are many people who will recycle or throw away containers responsibly. However, there also are people who litter irresponsibly and "bottle bills" make this litter valuable and in the end, encourage others to clean up our towns. Please support this effort to encourage keeping our towns clean.

John Vibert

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TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
CONNECTICUT STATE ASSEMBLY & SENATE

RE: SB 661

Of the many good reasons for the passage of sb 661, I can add two more.

- 1.) nickle return on water bottles adds a financial incentive for the poorer in our society to scour such litter from the public areas and roadways. This will reduce the municipal and state program costs of litter removal at no cost to either body.
- 2.) nickle return proceeds provide a small, but vital, subsidy to the income of our homeless and destitute, again at no cost to the taxpayer.

Since the nickle return is not a "handout", there is gained some sense of self worth and control of ones life. Since the volume of water bottles far exceeds the volume of those already subject to nickle deposit, the state deposit program would be geometrically more successful than already demonstrated.

The net total of deposit funds not redeemed would be available to the state for furthering its environmental clean up programs, if the legislation is properly worded.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Christopher Von Keyserling

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Katherine L. Walker

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Today I am writing to you to tell you how important I feel it is for the legislature to pass bill #357. Please add water bottles to the deposit law and help collect a valuable reusable resource.

Thank you.

Katherine L. Walker

127 Mountain Road East Hartland, CT. (2008)

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Bob Wall

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Although I am a state government employee dedicated to energy and climate change issues and a member of numerous environmental organizations and committees, I submit this testimony as a concerned citizen. I strongly support S.B. No. 357 and the attempt to integrate bottled water into the state's highly successful deposit redemption program. Plastic bottles are made with petroleum, an increasingly scarce resource that serves other vital needs in our society. The consumption of bottled water has exploded over the past decade as evidenced by its ever-expanding presence on our supermarket shelves and, more tragically, the garbage cans and grounds at our recreational fields, parks, beaches and other public areas. By requiring deposits on bottled water, we can greatly reduce the amount of trash, which will help Connecticut to meet critical goals of reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels, increasing the rate of recycling and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge you to pass this bill and, more importantly, ask party leaders to allow it to come to a vote of the full legislature. Thank you very much.

Bob Wall

277 Crestwood Road Fairfield, Connecticut (2008)

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To: The Environmental Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Chairs;

I would like to pass along my support for SB661. It is more than important; it is critical that we stop the rhetoric about cleaning up the environment, stop wasting natural resources, and increase one of the options we have open to us - that ALL Connecticut residents can participate in - recycling. It is time to act. SB661 is the extension of the bottle bill already in place that will make the significant difference in lessening the waste created by the excess, non-refundable bottles and cans that exist now.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Susan Weldon

103 Cottage Road Madison, Ct 06443-3424

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Lora Welt

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I live close to I95 and see the consequences of plastic water bottles discarded from cars daily. Although my part of Groton recycles plastic, I frequently pick up bottles discarded by runners, walkers and transient commuters.

The bottle bill affecting soda bottles reduced the litter significantly, as well as encouraging recycling and a source of small change for children and the homeless.

Please pass this bill.

Lora Welt

18 Boulder Court Mystic, CT 06355 (2008)

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To the Environment Committee, Sen. Meyer and Rep. Roy, Chairs:

I'm writing in support of the bottle bill legislation, S.B. 661, which adds a deposit for water and other beverages such as sports drinks, tea, and juices. I feel that it is important to update the deposit system to capture this litter stream, because the market has grown considerably for these types of beverages. I believe there is no more reliable way to ensure that these plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans are properly recycled than to attach a cash value to them. Please consider a favorable vote on this legislation in your committee. Thank you.

Debra Wheeler  
285 Sandra Drive East Hartford, CT 06118-1950

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I am very excited to hear that the state has taken action to use unclaimed bottle deposits for our general fund but I believe that it is just the first step. Since the Bottle Bill was originally made to protect the environment, I believe it is very important to make sure that money is put to the proper use. With the DEPs funding as low as it is in this day and age it seems like a no-brainer to put that money back into protecting our environment. A lot has changed since the original Bottle Bill was passed in 1980. One of the major changes is how many bottled beverages are now for sale. I believe it is very important that a deposit should be made on more bottled drinks such as water, iced tea, sports drinks and juices. Not only would this benefit the state and DEP with more money but would also encourage more people to recycle their bottles. Let's all work together to keep our state clean and beautiful by increasing the limits of the Bottle Bill as well as increasing the deposit to ten cents. I hope you take this opportunity to improve our state. Thanks for your time.

Carla White  
104 Augur St Hamden, CT 06517

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008  
Testimony of Kael Wiersch  
In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am 25 years old and President of the Three Rivers United Environmentalists a student organization at Three Rivers Community College where I am enrolled in the Environmental Science and Technologies program. We have been doing research on improving our recycling rate and have discovered that water bottles represent a significant and growing problem. Water bottles vastly outnumber other types of beverage containers that are improperly discarded in the trash can and as litter. People are simply more likely to recycle cans and soda bottles because of the deposit redemption value.

Recycling water bottles saves tremendous energy and conserves valuable, largely imported, resources. PET plastic bottles are a petroleum product of rapidly increasing value. Failure to recycle this plastic makes us even more dependent on foreign oil from unstable regions. Recycled PET is in high demand. It is used to make many products burning these bottles with the rest of our trash not only wastes the resource but also creates tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide, adding to the growing global warming crisis.

The Connecticut Solid Waste Plan, approved in 2007, calls for adding "at least" water bottles to the deposit law. The plan plainly states, "there is not enough disposal capacity in-state to handle all the Connecticut solid waste requiring disposal." Failure to reduce the amount of trash means taxpayers will be paying to ship 1.5 million tons of waste out of state annually in less than 20 years.

According to the DEP "Bottle bill states have achieved much higher recycling rates of PET bottles than the rest of the US and are a preferred source of recycled PET due to the consistency and lack of contaminants in their supply"... "bottle bill states consistently achieve 80% recycling rates."

Strengthen Connecticut's Deposit Redemption program by passing S.B. No. 357.

Thank You,  
Kael Wiersch  
Kael Wiersch  
32 Scotch Cap Rd Quaker Hill CT, 06375. (2008)

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Environment Committee  
Testimony of Allan Williams,  
I wish to support S.B. No. 661  
Imagine this. You are the manager of one of the thousands, tens of thousands of meetings and events that take place each year around the state. In offices, in convention centers, in fund-raising walks, in public meetings, you name it. It's break time and water bottles are provided for all. Maybe just twenty at a small meeting, maybe 25,000 at a convention, and maybe just maybe there are those who would like to recycle them. Alas, in the vast majority of places there is no recycling container present. Why? There is no incentive for whoever is putting on the program. In all likelihood, sadly, almost all end up in the trash. Despite the desires of many of the participants, and many of

those holding the event.

Imagine this. S.B. 661 has passed and is signed into law. Now there is an incentive to make sure the bottles do not end up in the trash, and for the most part they won't. They will get recycled through collection programs.

Which would you prefer?

You already know my answer.

Respectfully,

Allan Williams

Allan Williams

66 Concord Street West Hartford, CT 06119

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We enthusiastically support your efforts to urge the passage on Monday 2/2 of SB661 to initiate a 10-cent deposit on plastic water bottles. As cyclists we see so many discarded along our roadways.

Consumers will be more aware of the environmental costs built into products they purchase, and for merchandizers as well to bear their share. A price tag is something we all get used to, and this positive step is a long time in coming.

Thank you for your efforts and may we all succeed this time around.

Sincerely,

Adela and Lucius

P.O. Box 321 Old Lyme CT 06371

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I am over 50 years old yet I still remember going to the supermarket when I was young and lugging soda bottles with my dad. Having this responsibility was my one way of earning pocket money. At that time, the water we drank came primarily from a tap so recycling soda bottles captured most of the bottle usage. Today whenever I attend any kind of social or athletic event, along side the soda there is certain to be lots of cold water and juice bottles. It is time that we updated our bottle redemption efforts to reflect changes in our drinking habits. Recycling of all

beverage bottles helps to reduce our petroleum usage as well as help minimize waste and litter. And research has shown that by having a 5 cent deposit people are much more likely to recycle these bottles rather than just tossing them into the trash.

Please support the Bill HB661 to expand redemption provisions to include all beverage bottles. Thank you!

Laura Winston

467 Main Street Old Saybrook, CT

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Testimony in Support of S.B. 661

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

Please include our names as supporters of the bottle bill. Our family has increased our bottled water consumption dramatically over the past five years, easily surpassing any other bottled/canned beverage intake by 3 to 1. I place the bottles in our recyclable bin hoping that they may be routed to some form of recycling effort because I just can't bring myself to toss them in the trash.

PLEASE accept this request to pass the bottle bill for water bottles. It is imperative that these be included. Not doing so is counterproductive and irresponsible.

Thank you for your action on this important issue.

Donna & Vic Worst

28 Silas Deane Rd Ledyard, CT 06339

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Environment Committee

March 10, 2008

Testimony of Christine W Wright

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

Please walk the shorelines and see the discarded plastic bottles. Please note the constant litter of plastic water bottles along your roadsides. Please help.

Hopefully and Respectfully,

Christine W Wright

162 Barnes RD Stonington, CT06378 (2008)

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Environment Committee Sen. Meyer and Rep Roy, Chairs

I strongly support the bottle bill SB661 which adds deposits for water, teas, juices and sports drink. Please update our deposit system to reflect all the bottles that are rapidly adding to the massive litter defacing our environment. Increasing the bottles that are included in the deposit system will help force recycling and decrease the litter stream along our

highways, waterways and city streets. Raising the amount of the deposit will only encourage recycling thereby reduce litter.  
Thank you for thinking about our Connecticut environment and actively working to promote recycling and more responsible citizens.

Loretta Wrobel  
297 Pumpkin Hill Road Ashford, CT 06297

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Environment Committee  
March 10, 2008

Testimony of Claire Zick

In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES.

I am writing to express my support for S.B. N. 357 and urge the state legislature to pass this bill. The Bottle Bill has helped reduce litter and save energy and resources at no cost to tax payers. It is time to extend this bill to cover plastic water bottles which have become ubiquitous and are regularly thrown away rather than recycled. These plastic bottles can be recycled into other items and encouraging recycling through the bottle bill will help us reduce waste and our use of petroleum, a non-renewable resource.

Please vote in favor of S.B. No. 357.

Thank you,  
Claire Zick  
West Hartford, CT. (2008)

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To: Members, Environment Committee

Re: In favor of S.B. No. 357 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE WATER BOTTLES

My wife and I visited the CRRA Trash Museum in Hartford on Thursday, March 6th. We were quite impressed by the politically invisible issue of trash disposal.

We are in favor of expanding beverage container redemption provisions because

1. bottled water is a significant contributor to the general problem of refuse disposal
2. the consumer of bottled water does not now pay directly for his/her contribution to the problem
3. neither state nor local government would be inconvenienced by the broadening of the redemption legislation
4. if approved, it would focus more public attention on a growing public policy issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Zwerling  
25 Willow Brook Road Glastonbury, CT 06033-1056 (2008)

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To Sen. Ed Meyer, Co-chair, Rep. Richard Roy, Co-chair, and Members of the Environment Committee:

As a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding win-win solutions to environmental challenges, Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems, HARP, Inc., strongly supports S.B. 661, the comprehensive bottle bill, and H.B. 5215, An act imposing a five-cent fee on plastic shopping bags provided by retail stores.

After so many years since passage of the original bottle bill, it is extremely important to update the deposit system to include deposits for the huge amounts of litter produced by water bottles, as well as other beverages (e.g., tea, sports drinks, juices).

Also, the ubiquitous litter produced by plastic shopping bags creates an additional blight on our landscape.

Passage of both of these important bills will be a great help in improving Connecticut's environment!

Sincerely,

Dr. Nan Zyla, President  
Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems, HARP, Inc.

Dr. Nan Zyla  
P.O. Box 565 Essex, CT 06426

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