

February 9, 2011.

My name is Clem Sayers, and I am the General Manager of Rogo Distributors .

Rogo is a Beer and Soft Drink Distributor , located in East Hartford. Our primary Beer Brands are Coors, Miller, Corona, Guinness, and Pabst along with several other Domestic, Imported, and Craft Brewed Products.

Our Soft Drink Portfolio consists of products like Snapple, Gatorade, Stewart's Soda, and Nesquik, as well as several brands of bottled water, fruit juice, energy drinks, and functional beverages.

We distribute our products in Hartford, Tolland, and Windham Counties to over 2,000 customers including Grocery Stores, Liquor Stores, Convenience Stores, Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, Insurance Companies, Deli's, Bars and Restaurants.

We employ over 100 people at Rogo including Drivers, Warehousemen, Sales Representatives, Merchandisers, and Office Staff.

I am testifying today in opposition to SB 57, expanding the Bottle Bill to include bottled Teas, Juices, and Sports Drinks.

Single stream recycling in the Hartford area and in many Cities and towns throughout Connecticut has become a common and efficient means to effectively recycle the products you would like to impose a deposit on. In my opinion this Bill would act as a disincentive to the growing single stream initiatives.

The cost of adding a deposit and other charges to these items would unfortunately be paid by Connecticut consumers who are conscious of the environment and already recycling them by using their curbside bins.

At a time when we should be working to contain costs and keep prices down in order to stimulate sales, adding a deposit to Tea, Juice, and Sports Drinks would increase prices by close to \$2.00 per case. The increase becomes a tax on the consumers who use these products. Unfortunately this tax doesn't do anything to enhance Connecticut's economy.

I respectfully ask that the Committee reconsider moving SB 57 forward. Beer, Soda, all carbonated beverages, and most recently Bottled Water fall under Connecticut's Bottle Law. To add Tea, Juice, and Sports Drinks to that stream would be cumbersome and expensive for all concerned.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Clement F Sayers Jr.
Rogo Distributors
65 Roberts Street
East Hartford, CT. 06108
860 528 9381