



**Stop&Shop®**

February 9, 2011

Chairman Edward Myer  
Chairman Richard Roy  
State Capitol  
Hartford, Ct 06106

Dear Chairman Myer and Chairman Roy,

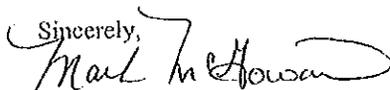
On behalf of The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company I'm writing to express my concerns regarding proposed SB57 "An Act Expanding the Beverage Container Redemption System". The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company is one of the largest employers in the state, we operate 92 stores in Connecticut and we employ more than 12,900 full and part-time union associates.

The proposed bill would expand the bottle law to include juices, punches, teas and sport drinks including containers three liters or more in size. The size of some of these containers do not fit into the reverse vending machines, resulting in serious storage complications, including sanitary and safety handling issues. In addition, because all containers will not go through the machines, customers will be required to stand in line to make returns. We have stores that have inadequate size bottle rooms to handle the additional reverse vending machines and containers.

We strongly support curbside recycling, which already is a proven success, along with a public awareness and educational program. This approach helps the environment and saves our customers money because it is a simpler and more cost effective approach. In addition, recent litter studies indicate that, on average, noncarbonated beverage containers represent a small percent of all litter in Connecticut. Therefore, we firmly believe that expanding the bottle law will have minimum impact on controlling the litter problem.

We believe it is more important to address the root cause of the litter and recycling problem and that a public-private partnership is the perfect way to do so. By working collaboratively, state government, business, other private organizations, and our state's citizens can engage and support recycling initiatives that make consumers more conscious about environmental efforts. We should work together to improve access to recycling bins in government, public, and private buildings. The state should partner with communities to invest in the promotion and expansion of existing recycling initiatives, including awareness and educational programs about curbside and drop-off recycling. Such a comprehensive approach will create a sustainable recycling effort, which becomes a way of life for us all.

We are committed to recycling and continue to find new ways to reduce and or recycle the waste we generate. We participate in many waste reduction programs, including cardboard, plastics bags, meat trimmings and composting. We encourage our customers to use reusable bags when they do their grocery shopping as well. We strongly urge you to oppose an expansion of the law and we hope you will join the supermarket industry in improving the environment in Connecticut by supporting a public-private comprehensive recycling program to address the litter problem in the state.

Sincerely,  


Mark McGowan,  
Division President, Stop & Shop, New England Division