



February 9, 2011

Chip Cingari  
Grade A ShopRite  
360 Connecticut Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06854

Written testimony in OPPOSITION of Senate bill 57,  
AN ACT EXPANDING THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION SYSTEM

To: The Hon. Edward Meyer, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Richard Roy, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Andrew M. Maynard, Vice-Chairman, The Hon. Paul Davis, Vice-Chairman, The Hon. Andrew W. Roraback, Ranking Member, The Hon. Clark J. Chapin, Ranking Member, and the members of the Environment Committee

Good afternoon Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Chip Cingari and my family owns and operates ten ShopRite supermarkets in Fairfield and New Haven counties.

Expanding Connecticut's bottle bill to include juice, tea, sports drink and other beverages not currently covered by the bottle law will have a detrimental impact on my stores and will impede all recycling progress that has been made in Connecticut.

I already bear the burden of redeeming containers that were not sold in my ShopRite stores. People, who did not buy their containers at my stores, or even in the State of Connecticut, bring bottles back to my stores for redemption. I am forced to pay them for these returns, as I am required by law to redeem any brands that are sold in our stores, regardless of where it is purchased. I already take back twice what I sell and that number will only increase if the bottle law is expanded. This is an expense that I cannot afford.

I also cannot afford to give up any more valuable sales space in my stores, which I would need to do if the bottle law were expanded. In addition to giving up space, new reverse vending machines would need to be purchased, and additional personnel will need to be hired. Absent these costly modifications to current operations, customers will spend more of their valuable time standing on longer lines waiting to redeem their additional containers.

While I oppose Senate bill 57 and expanding the bottle law, I would support other green projects that benefit the environment, such as the creation of single-stream, curbside recycling programs.

In Stamford, which is one of the communities served by my ShopRite supermarkets, we adopted a single-stream recycling program which has resulted in new revenues and earned savings for the city, as well as increase in the recycling rate. When the recycling rate goes up the trash that goes in the waste stream goes down.

This type of curbside recycling program would be clean and easy for the consumer, while remaining cost efficient and having the most impact on solving the problem of litter in our communities.

I ask that you oppose Senate bill 57 and expanding the bottle law to cover new containers. Instead I ask that you support adopting a single-stream, curbside recycling program. My family and I would be pleased to work with you in creating new, single-stream recycling programs.

Thank you.