

2/9/11

Environmental Committee
General Assembly
State of Connecticut

Re: Testimony in response to Committee Bill # 58 (LCO2532)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mitch Klein; I am Vice President of Government Relations for Krasdale Foods. We are a wholesale grocery distributor located in New York and serve 387 supermarkets and grocery stores in CT.

In response to the above referenced bill we submit the following for your consideration:

This bill by excluding; newspaper wrappers, dry cleaning, fast food packaging, etc defeats the intent of what it is trying to do.

If you want to control these bags it needs to be done across all boundaries and not just discriminate against the supermarket. What has been excluded could exceed what is used by the supermarket in the first place.

The procedure suggested to account for these fees will also allow for some to quickly become a partner with the State and keep this revenue for themselves.

There is no way to accurately account for these "fees" and they can easily fall into someone else's pocket.

I would urge Legislators prior to writing procedure that look good on paper to actually spend a day in a supermarket to see how their concept would work.

Candidly, it doesn't. Transactions are often finalized prior to bagging. Do we now go back and do another transaction?

What is written here only creates more of a burden for the retailer at a time when they need relief from government intervention.

However, this bill along with the expanded bottle bill and no beer sales on Sunday is an extremely effective way to drive business out of the state.

Mitch Klein