

Testimony of Alexandra Wilds

UConnPIRG

In support of Proposed Senate Bill No. 67:

An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill

I would like to thank the Environment Committee, and Chairs Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Linda Gentile for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill 67, An Act concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

My name is Alexandra Wilds and I am a student at the University of Connecticut, member of the UConnPIRG nonprofit organization.

Currently, the Bottle Bill covers beer, soda, and water with a 5 cent redeemable deposit that incentivizes recycling. But unfortunately the last update in 2009, which added water, did not include the litany of other beverages like teas, sports drinks, juices, energy drinks, coffee-based beverages. This bill would correct some of that but not all. We should update the Bottle Bill and SB 67 is currently a good first step, but it can be and should be made better! I support updating the Bottle Bill for a number of reasons. Our world that we have so graciously been given is not here for us to take advantage of. We must utilize and re-utilize when possible all the resources that it has to offer us. Recycling is one of the simplest and most pertinent ways in being able to do this. Not only will the update of the Bottle Bill give the people of Connecticut more incentive to reduce trash and recycle more but it will give the people a reminder about recycling in general and the benefits it can provide for both them and the environment. Recycling is an act that everyone and anyone can do to help make a difference for Connecticut and passing this bill will open a door of opportunities for more and more people to better Connecticut through recycling.

In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to strengthen SB 67 and then pass it onto the Connecticut General Assembly. I am confident that this is a great bill for Connecticut.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.