



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
OPPOSING
SB-67, AAC THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER
CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL
BEFORE THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2014**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut has significant concerns with SB-67, and suggests rejection. NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that expanding the existing bottle deposit law in Connecticut to virtually every category of beverage would have untended consequences and would be an undue burden on many small businesses. Small businesses including grocery stores, package stores, small convenience stores and others would have to deal with the inconvenience and expense to their operations including issues of unique pricing, storage, space, leasing and maintaining machines and shipping associated with used containers. In addition, NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that the effect of such a significant expansion of the beverage deposit law will cost consumers significantly more for their groceries – in effect, a tax increase. NFIB/Connecticut suggests that from a broader policy perspective, more efforts should be focused on increasing recycling through proven single-stream methods rather than increasingly targeting certain products or containers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to take no action on SB-67.