

**Testimony of Caroline D'Attilio**  
**Connecticut Public Research Interest group**  
**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 Caroline D'Attilio and I am a student at the University of Connecticut.

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, and 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.

Statistics have shown that 70% of bottles covered by the 5 cent deposit are recycled while only 25% of the bottles not covered by the deposit are recycled. Everything makes a difference and if updating this bill means that the number of bottles recycled will rise, that will be a huge accomplishment. Waste is always growing and it is an even larger problem when plastic is involved. We throw away enough non-deposit containers each year to blanket I-95 in our state.

As a student supporting this update and in my personal experience of spreading the word about this bill, I have found that most people already support updating the Bottle Bill. I coordinated a tabling event which collected photo petitions to update the Bottle Bill. The support was absolutely overwhelming. We were able to hit our petition goal for three days in a single day. This bill is especially important for younger generations who have to live with the waste that we generate.

In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to strengthen SB 67 and then pass it onto the Connecticut General Assembly. This is a good bill for Connecticut.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.