

Mr. Danny Diaz – C-Town
Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports
Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Danny Diaz and I am the owner of C-Town Supermarket in New Britain, CT. We have been in business for over five years and employ approx. 15 - 20 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Although we understand the committee's want to increase the recycling rate in CT, we feel that expanding the bottle bill is a move in the wrong direction. The bottle bill was born in the 1970's as a litter initiative; decades before automated garbage pick-up, high tech sort separation machines in trash facilities, and the expansion of the types of beverages that residents are consuming. Towns have successfully introduced and consumers embraced single stream recycling which is far less expensive and more sanitary to operate. I do not understand the need to expand the bottle bill at this time.

Reverse vending machines are very costly to rent and take up a lot of space that would otherwise be used to sell groceries. The current handling fee (1.5 cents on beer and 2.0 cents on water and soda) does not cover cost and has never been increased since the bottle law's inception. My store losses approximately three cents for every container that I take back, which over the course of a year costs thousands of dollars in lost revenue, which escalated the cost of food in our store to the consumer. The bottles and cans that come back are filthy and constant sanitation of the bottle rooms and shopping carts are required. Current reverse vending machines do not handle the multiple sizes and shapes of juice containers and more specifically juice cartons. It is mind boggling why trash is being brought back to a store that sells fresh, healthy commodities when curbside options are available.

The expansion to water resulted in higher costs to the retailer from the water manufacturers as they had to recover their costs that they experienced from implementing the container return system. These costs were passed onto the consumer. Sales of bottled water decreased. Expect the same scenario when the bottle bill is further expanded to juice, teas, fruit and sports drinks. In today's economic climate in the state and the cutback in SNAP benefits, now is not the time to increase a consumer's food bill.

We look for ways each day to control costs and make sure that we are environmentally conscious. We compost food scraps and recycle boxes and numerous other materials in our stores. We have programs that incentivize consumers to bring their own bags, cutting down on the use of paper and plastic. We are good corporate citizens that are concerned about the environment, but we think there is a better more efficient way to accomplish increases in

recycling than expansion of the bottle law. Governor Malloy has introduced Governor's Bill No 27- An Act Concerning Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management Strategy. This act would look to modernize the state's solid waste management infrastructure, promote organic materials management, and more. That's the future of sound environmental policy! Expansion of the bottle law, at this time, would be bad for my business and will cost consumer more for their groceries. I urge you to reject SB 67.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Danny Diaz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. Nelson Diaz – C-Town

Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Nelson Diaz and I am the owner of Bravo Supermarket in East Hartford, CT. We have been in business for over five years and employ approx. 20 - 30 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Although we understand the committee's want to increase the recycling rate in CT, we feel that expanding the bottle bill is a move in the wrong direction. The bottle bill was born in the 1970's as a litter initiative; decades before automated garbage pick-up, high tech sort separation machines in trash facilities, and the expansion of the types of beverages that residents are consuming. Towns have successfully introduced and consumers embraced single stream recycling which is far less expensive and more sanitary to operate. I do not understand the need to expand the bottle bill at this time.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Cruz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Lizbel Sanchez – C-Town
Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports
Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Lizbel Sanchez and I am the owner of Bravo Supermarket in Norwalk, CT. We have been in business for over a year now and employ approx. 20 - 30 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Although we understand the committee's want to increase the recycling rate in CT, we feel that expanding the bottle bill is a move in the wrong direction. The bottle bill was born in the 1970's as a litter initiative; decades before automated garbage pick-up, high tech sort separation machines in trash facilities, and the expansion of the types of beverages that residents are consuming. Towns have successfully introduced and consumers embraced single stream recycling which is far less expensive and more sanitary to operate. I do not understand the need to expand the bottle bill at this time.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "S".

Mr. Edwin Sanchez – C-Town

Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Edwin Sanchez and I am the owner of C-Town Supermarket in Danbury, CT. We have been in business for over five years and employ approx. 35 - 50 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

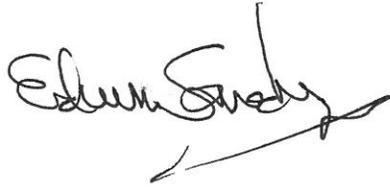
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund Sney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr. Leandro Santos – C-Town
Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports
Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Leandro Santos and I am the owner of Bravo Supermarket in Hartford, CT. We have been in business for over five years and employ approx. 20 - 30 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

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A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Laurie Sachs". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a single line.

Mr. Ruddy Fernandez – C-Town
Testimony in Opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports
Drinks under CT's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Ruddy Fernandez and I am the owner of Bravo Supermarket in Hartford, CT. We have been in business for over five years and employ approx. 30 - 55 associates in our stores. I am here in opposition to SB 67 an Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Although we understand the committee's want to increase the recycling rate in CT, we feel that expanding the bottle bill is a move in the wrong direction. The bottle bill was born in the 1970's as a litter initiative; decades before automated garbage pick- up, high tech sort separation machines in trash facilities, and the expansion of the types of beverages that residents are consuming. Towns have successfully introduced and consumers embraced single stream recycling which is far less expensive and more sanitary to operate. I do not understand the need to expand the bottle bill at this time.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruddy Fernandez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.