

**Testimony of Elena Klonoski, Student**

**Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee**

**February 28, 2014**

**Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 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 Elena Klonoski and I am a student at Connecticut College.

Unfortunately, the Bottle Bill currently does not cover many beverage containers, such as teas, sports drinks, juices, energy drinks, coffee-based beverages, with that familiar 5 cent redeemable deposit that incentivizes recycling. Updating the Bottle Bill and SB 67 would be a good first step towards increasing recycling in Connecticut. An update makes sense to most people within the community that I have talked to about this issue. I have recently been involved in gathering signatures from local business communities in support of updating the Bottle Bill. As I began talking to managers and local owners of restaurants, I began to see how much support Connecticut residents have for recycling and how much sense updating the Bottle Bill made to these people.

I support updating the Bottle Bill because this approach to recycling in Connecticut has been proven to work for the containers that are covered with the deposit. Now it is time to include all single-serving beverage containers in the bill in order to maximize our recycling capacity.

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.

Elena Klonoski