Gary C. Davis
DAVIS IGA, INC.
27 Kent Green Blvd.
P.O. Box 251
Kent, CT 06757
(860) 927-4093
www.davisiga.com

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 Gary Davis and I am the owner of Davis IGA, Inc. in Kent, CT. We have been in business since 1974 and employ 35 associates in our stores. I am in opposition to SB 67 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

I understand the committee's interest in increasing the recycling rate in CT. However, I do not believe adding more containers with a deposit is the right way to go.

When the bottle bill was implemented in the late 70s my business was forced to build a room to store the returns. All containers were counted at a check-out devoted to bottle returns. Those empties were brought to the back shed to be sorted by hand.

We were able to install reverse vending machines about 15 years ago. They were originally housed in the front of our store on the porch and are now is in a covered shed. While these machines are much better than sorting empties by hand, they are expensive. We pay over $400 a month to lease three reverse vending machines. The area around the redemption area is quite often a mess. Customers leave their empties that are not programmed for our machines behind, along with their garbage, for us to dispose of. I shudder to think what will happen if we have more commodities added to the soda, water, and beer we currently redeem. With the cost of renting the machines and a handling fee that has never increased from day one, this is nothing but a losing proposition for my business.

I would urge the committee to seriously look at promoting single stream recycling for the entire state to help solve this ongoing problem of how to handle Connecticut's solid waste issues.