

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents Connecticut off-premise package store retailers. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT.

We oppose **S.B. No. 67 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL..**

We believe that with the continued expansion of curbside recycling and single-stream recycling that Connecticut consumers are already increasing their recycling efforts. In fact, CT has the highest recycling rates of any state as acknowledged by the Department of Environment and Energy Protection.

The bottle-bill approach to recycling is an outdated one no longer provides an efficient mechanism for recycling. It is also expensive, and as occurred with the expansion to water, the products that the bottle bill applied to resulted in higher prices and these costs were passed on to the consumers. There are also so many new private label products in the market and although package stores are mandated to take back only those products they sell; most package stores take the private label products back for their customers and absorb the cost of recycling the item. Additionally, as it is since the expansion to water, it is already a very unsanitary environment in the recycling areas of most stores and additional items would only require stores to devote additional retail space to redemption centers and less to product offerings.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony and for considering our concerns.

Regards

Josh Hughes Esq.
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