

Written Testimony of Kristen Valera

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 Kristen Valera and I am currently a student at Quinnipiac University.

My family, along with myself, has always utilized the 5-cent deposit and the ability to recycle our bottles. We use the few extra dollars from bottle deposits to shave some of the cost off of our grocery total. But there have always been countless bottles that get thrown in the reject pile. Every time I go to the grocery store to do this, there is always a huge basket that is filled with bottles that don't have a 5-cent deposit. In addition, there are a lot of different college organizations that use bottle deposits as a way to fundraise for a cause and by increasing the beverages under the Bottle Bill, they can benefit more along with others that use bottle deposits as a way to save money on groceries or make a few dollars. It's actually a waste to see that these bottles don't get recycled. Updating the Bottle Bill to include sports drinks and teas is common sense but I hope one day we can also include wine bottles and nips.

In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to strengthen SB 67 and then pass it onto the Connecticut General Assembly. There are endless benefits to updating the Bottle Bill including the increase of recycling in our state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute testimony.

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