

Written Testimony of Bottle & Can Redemption Center,
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, Ratilal L. Garala, the owner of Bottle & Can Redemption Center located in South Windsor, Connecticut would like to personally thank you for giving the opportunity to testify. This is a critical issue in many regards and therefore I would like to provide my perspective on this critical matter.

This bill is a MUST for several reasons. This bill would only benefit us in numerous ways. One being the environmental reason. Why would one not include juices, teas, sport drinks, and more but include only water bottles and cans. Are these other containers not being littered? Over 300 million non-deposit containers each year are thrown away that do not carry the 5-cent deposit. 1 out of 4 bottles sold in CT are not covered by the bottle bill. It's time that we bring the long awaiting change to this bill.

This bill will increase the recycling rate significantly. For example, bottles and cans with the CT deposit are being recycled at the rate of 70% while those without any deposit recycled at only 25%. Also, the update to the bill would save my town money by getting rid of trash collection and disposal costs to litter abatement costs.

Last but not least, my livelihood depends on this. We work with our local public and also people including countless towns' boys scouts, cubs scouts, and so on. All of them depend on redemption centers for quickly returning their empties. They depend on us. We work extremely hard by counting empties and then sorting each by individual brand. All this for only 2 cents profit and just 1.5 cent from other distributors. The cost of living is rising but we haven't gotten a raise in a years! We cannot survive in this economy. We need this bill passed. It's crucial.

Ratilal Garala
Bottle & Can Redemption Center
Owner