



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 28, 2014
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

**Senate Bill 67 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS
UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 67– AAC THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

Connecticut's forward thinking bottle bill program was enacted in 1978 and became effective Jan 1, 1980. It was created as an anti-litter program, though the program also results in the recycling of containers collected through the bottle bill system. Recyclables collected through the bottle bill systems generally have less contamination and more value than similar materials collected through other recycling programs. In 2009, the program was expanded to include water bottles. It was also at this time that unclaimed deposits averaging \$28 million+ per year were directed to the State's General Fund.

That being said, the Governor's Bill SB 27 - AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY calls for a dramatic increase in state-wide recycling rates over the next 10 years, and calls for the creation of a comprehensive materials management strategy that will enable the state to achieve this ambitious goal. We believe the analysis that will be a part of the process of developing this comprehensive materials strategy will lead to a better understanding of the role Connecticut's bottle bill should play going forward, and how it should interact with Connecticut's efforts to further product stewardship through extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs.

During this process, over the course of the coming months, we hope to find best practices that will work for the State of Connecticut and for the variety of circumstances found in our 169 towns and associated districts. This comprehensive materials strategy will explore how the bottle bill best fits into Connecticut's new materials management paradigm.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).