



FARMS INC.

WM E. MILLER & SONS
MILK AND ICE CREAM VENDING SPECIALISTS

P.O. BOX 767
13 BURR ROAD
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT 06002
S60 242-9589
FAX 860 243-2490

**In Opposition to Raised Bill No. 67, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS
AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL.**

Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee.

Maple Hill Farms is a small milk and ice cream vending company in Bloomfield. We work with full line vending companies throughout the state, providing milk and ice cream to businesses and schools. We are a family-owned business that has grown from my grandfather's farm in 1928 to a thriving company that provided health insurance and other benefits to 45 employees in the 1980s. Now, in 2014, Maple Hill Farms has just 23 hard-working employees as we struggle to maintain a functioning business. We wish we could afford to grow.

As a consumer, the five cent return you get after finishing a canned or bottled beverage is something beyond an afterthought. As a vendor though, whose business revolves around these products, it is a major concern. So much so that major manufacturers of canned and bottled goods like Coke and Pepsi charge a three cent "environmental fee" for each container in order to recoup some of the money lost to these taxes.

To function as a business, we rely on these manufacturers and are forced to pay their fees. Our customers on the other hand, are not as wed to us as vendors and we risk alienating them if we were to increase costs in response to manufacturer fees, which are in response to bottle taxes. Being in the middle, small vendors like us are left holding the bag while the rest of the distribution line is unburdened.

Maple Hill Farms opposes Senate Bill #67 for the reasons outlined in this testimony. We cannot afford another halving of our workforce. Thank you for hearing our concerns.

Regards,

Scott Miller
Maple Hill Farms