

**Testimony of Shayne Fields of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee**

February 28, 2014

Testimony in support of Raised Bill 67

First I would like to thank all the members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to give this testimony today.

My name is Shayne Fields and I am a proud member of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice or CCEJ. I am here to testify in favor of Raised Bill 67 and strengthening it. This is an act concerning the inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

At least 300 million bottles are thrown away each year in Connecticut. By not allowing sports drinks, teas, and even some water bottles to be redeemable, in our state, it is having a catastrophic effect on our environment and community. The smoke that is released from incinerators, containing many harmful dioxins, are reducing the life expectancy of our children. Expanding the number of bottles that can be redeemed in our state, to include these additional beverages, will reduce the litter on our streets and reduce what we burn in our incinerator.

Raised Bill 67 can also provide much needed income for many underprivileged individuals. I myself have benefited from the gains in recycling. By starting my own company named MagiT3K Recycling, I have found a way to help many restaurants, apartment complexes, and schools find a responsible way to recycle their glass, redeemables, and cardboard.

Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice urges that the Environment Committee pass raised Bill 67 and strengthen it to include liquor nips, liquor and wine bottles as well as all single serving beverages. This is critical in that these are the beverage containers that all too often litter our cities and roads and need to be recycled. Increasing the handling fee to 3.5 cents will also better cover the costs for stores and redemption centers and allow them to continue operating efficiently. Thank you and have a blessed day.