

**Testimony of *Shushrusha Lamsal, Ms.***

**UConnPIRG**

**in support of**

**Proposed Senate Bill No. 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 Shushrusha Lamsal and I am a student at the University of Connecticut.

Currently, the Bottle Bill covers beer, soda, and water with a 5 cent redeemable deposit that incentivizes recycling. But unfortunately the last update in 2009, which added water, did not include the litany of other beverages like teas, sports drinks, juices, energy drinks, coffee-based beverages. This bill would correct some of that but not all. We should update the Bottle Bill and SB 67 is currently a good first step, but it can be and should be made better!

I support updating the Bottle Bill for a number of reasons. The Bottle Bill is the best recycling program in the state. We throw away 300 million bottles per year, enough to cover all of I-91 in the state. Having grown up in Connecticut and believing it to be a state that recycling's exceedingly well, these numbers were shocking and extremely disappointing. What made it worse was knowing there is a possibility to change these number.

In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to strengthen SB 67 and then pass it onto the Connecticut General Assembly. This is a good bill for Connecticut.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.

Sincerely,

Shushrusha Lamsal