

CARON'S CORNER

147 Montowese Street, Branford, CT 06405

Telephone: 203-488-5857

February 4, 2015

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB No. 6033 Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Good morning Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis, and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Cynthia Caron Tamsin. I work at my family's business, Caron's Corner Market in Branford, Connecticut. It was founded by my Dad, Leonard Caron, back in 1973. I have worked there for over 35 years. During this time, I have witnessed some wonderful changes in the industry, as well as some changes that I consider to be wasteful, especially after the Tylenol tampering incident in 1982, which led the industry to extreme packaging practices. Shortly thereafter, I became a Mom. Our personal trash output doubled in size, which led me to question where all of the trash goes when it is thrown away by us. Where is "away"? There is no "away"; it just changes location. After much thought about my son's future, I changed over to cloth diapers to have less impact on the environment. This was the first of many changes I made personally, and paved my way to becoming an environmentalist.

Regarding the possible expansion of the bottle bill, I have an issue with people returning their often dirty, sticky, unsanitary containers back to a store that sells fresh food. It is basically contaminated garbage being returned to your local market, and is being handled by cashiers who also touch your food. People often dump their filthy returnables into shopping carts, where the next customer unknowingly places their toddler, unwrapped produce and meats. Additionally, as a store owner, we pay on average \$400 per month for a bottle and a can redemption machine. Expansion of this bill could force us to double our costs to accommodate the increase of redemptions.

I would like to propose redemption centers implemented in our state prior to any expansion on this bill. When the centers are in place, like other states have, I believe it would be a positive step to also include deposits on wine and other alcoholic beverage bottles. Thank you for your time and your consideration of this proposal.

Cynthia Caron Tamsin

Caron's Corner, Inc.