



Timothy J. Devanney, Highland Park Markets

Testimony in Opposition to HBN6033, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas & Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill

Good Afternoon Chairman Kennedy and Chairman Albis and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Timothy Devanney and I am the owner of Highland Park Markets in Manchester, Glastonbury, Farmington and Suffield Connecticut. We have been in business in Manchester since 1886. All stores totaled, we have approximately 450 full and part time employees. I am here in opposition to HBN6033, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Although I understand the committee's want to increase the recycling rate in Connecticut, I feel that expanding the Bottle Bill is the wrong way to go. My first job in my father's store was sorting bottles in the early 1960's and then as a litter initiative in the 1970's, it came back.

Today, with the automated garbage pick-up, high tech sort separation machines in trash facilities and now, with the variety of beverages that are available to our customers, I truly do not understand the expansion. I naively thought that we would eliminate the initial bill altogether.

Manchester, for example, has been single stream recycling for a few years. Their recycling program is roughly 28% of all curbside collected trash. According to our Town Manager and our Sanitation/Environmental Services Manager, our three year average is 4,620 tons of recycling. We save \$62.00 per ton in dump fees and get paid \$18.00 per ton for the recycling material. This is a savings of \$80.00 per ton to the town, for a yearly savings of approximately \$369,600.00. Think of how much we could save if we reversed the bottle bill and recycled all of the glass and aluminum that people bring to the stores.

The expansion of the Bill to include water was costly and affected our sales negatively. We are in a very competitive business and do our best to control costs. Our costs to handle each can or bottle is approximately three cents, plus the expense of renting machines and adding more items that are costly does not help in this economy.

Over the last two years, I have been approached by six independent stores asking us if we would be interested in buying them. They say they can't afford to be in business in Connecticut. Please stop adding to our costs.

Last, but certainly not least, we strive to bring our customers safe quality food. To be a collection point for garbage does not make a lot of sense. Please consider the consequences of HBN6033.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Devanney".

Timothy J. Devanney  
President, Highland Park Markets