

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and members of the Environment Committee, the Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents off-premise package store retailers in the state of Connecticut. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT. We submit this testimony in opposition to H.B. No. 6033 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF JUICES, TEAS AND SPORTS DRINKS UNDER CONNECTICUT'S BOTTLE BILL.

We believe that with expanded curbside recycling and large increase in towns utilizing single-stream recycling, that Connecticut consumers are already increasing their recycling efforts and these same items are being recycled at a large rate. Adding juice, tea and sport drinks will only further complicate the process in stores of all sizes. There are many private label products out there and package stores are mandated to take back only those products they sell. Most stores take the private label products back anyway for their customers and absorb the cost of recycling the item which ultimately is a big cost. Additionally, as it is since the expansion to water, it is already a very unsanitary environment in the recycling areas of most stores and additional items would only require stores to devote additional retail space to redemption centers and less to product offerings. We welcome further discussion on this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen Downes
President CPSA
Owner CT Beverage Mart
Newington, Wallingford