

Testimony of Evan Preston, ConnPIRG State Director, in support of HB 6033 and SB 349.

In support of Proposed House Bill 6033:

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 for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of House Bill 6033, An Act concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill. My name is Evan Preston and I am the State Director of ConnPIRG. 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 be a step in the right direction.

Not only will the update of the Bottle Bill give the people of Connecticut more incentive to reduce trash and recycle more but it will give the people a reminder about recycling in general and the benefits it can provide for both them and the environment. Recycling is an act that everyone and anyone can do to help make a difference for Connecticut and passing this bill will open a door of opportunities for more and more people to better Connecticut through recycling. In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to pass HB 6033 and send it on to the Connecticut General Assembly.

I would also like to urge the Environment Committee to pass SB 349, An Act Concerning Single-Use Carryout Plastic and Paper Bags and the Use of Reusable Bags. Last year the General Assembly brought Connecticut closer to a future that is better for taxpayers and public health by passing Zero Waste legislation to, among other things, double the state's recycling over the next ten years. SB 349 is another step in the right direction to Zero Waste as Connecticut is still burning more waste per capita than any other state and that waste includes single-use carryout bags. I urge the Environment Committee to pass SB 349 and send it on to the General Assembly.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.

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