

Hello, my name is Evan Kulak. I am a recent graduate of CCSU and I have been working at green planet for the last 7 or 8 years. I have worked in the redemption center industry my entire college career. It put me in a great position to pursue academics while still working for a living. I am here in favor of raised bill number 384. Adding deposits to a more variety of beverage containers is a great start and mutually beneficial to the state and the redemption industry. But further raising the current handling fee of 1.5 cents to 3.5 needs to come hand in hand. Other States that have the bottle bill have already increased such fees and has not posed detrimental.

Adding these containers to the bottle bill will increase our volume. We saw it when water bottles were added. Although our workload is increasing, our operations cost go up every year. Since fees aren't changing, it's counter active to our cause. It's like asking someone if they were willing to take a pay cut every year while increasing their workload. In any business, when costs go up you raise the price of your products or services. Unfortunately, that is not something we can dictate. Only you, legislation can do that for us.

I am here at the state level to represent my town and others just like mine. Individuals at the local level rely on these deposits. I see the same faces every day. I know them by name. I know their stories and I know how much they rely on this system to survive. We are also signing new nonprofit accounts every day, that hope to accumulate enough money to provide their boy scouts with a camping trip, to fix up their old churches, or send their sports teams to competitions. I am here to stress that redemption centers have been losing. We just lost another one in Hartford last month. We have been feeling the strain and if nothing is done soon there will be no one to pick up the literal and figurative pieces.