



**Testimony of Evan Preston, State Director  
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)**

**To the Environment Committee**

**In Favor of Raised Bill 384:**

**An Act Concerning the Application of the Bottle Bill to Wine and Liquor Bottles for  
Purposes of Funding State Parks**

Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Albis, Ranking Member Chapin, Ranking Member Shaban, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Raised Bill 384: An Act Concerning the Application of the Bottle Bill to Wine and Liquor Bottles for Purposes of Funding State Parks.

The Bottle Bill gives the people of Connecticut more incentive to reduce trash and recycle more. Recycling is an act that everyone and anyone can do to help make a difference for Connecticut. The bottle bill is still one of the most effective measures we have for waste reduction.

The bottle bill works.

- The bottle bill is the most effective recycling program in the state: 70% of bottles with a deposit are recycled compared to 25% of bottles without.
- The bottle bill also reduces litter and saves cities and towns money.

Given the success of this policy, it is wise to expand it to include wine and liquor bottles. Expanding the bottle bill would build on Connecticut's legacy of leadership on waste reduction.

An updated bottle bill fits within the new direction of Connecticut's solid waste and recycling policy, shifting from "waste management" to "materials management". Connecticut is emerging as a leader in what is variously known as Product Stewardship or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The principle of these policies is that the producers of material goods share responsibility for managing them for their entire life cycle – rather than externalizing that responsibility to consumers and taxpayers.

The committee will hear the same arguments from the bottling industry and grocery stores that we have heard for years.

They argue that the bottle bill is out of date, that single streams recycling has replaced the need for bottle bills. In fact, the bottle bill is by far the most effective recycling program in the state, achieving higher recycling rates than municipal recycling programs. Not every community in the state has single stream programs. And the home is not the only place people recycle; bottles are often consumed “on the go.”

They argue that bottle bills raise prices for consumers. However, a 2011 survey done by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection showed that there is no appreciable difference in prices between states with and without bottle deposits.

ConnPIRG encourages the committee to support SB 384. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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