



**CONNECTICUT
RECYCLERS
COALITION**

Testimony of Connecticut Recyclers Coalition To the Environment Committee

Supporting SB 384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE BOTTLE BILL TO WINE AND LIQUOR BOTTLES FOR PURPOSES OF FUNDING STATE PARKS.

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Mailing Address:
PO Box 290965
Wethersfield, CT 06129

Electronic Communication:
Kim.ourourke@middletownct.gov

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Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, and Environment Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting SB 384 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE BOTTLE BILL TO WINE AND LIQUOR BOTTLES FOR PURPOSES OF FUNDING STATE PARKS.

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition is a group of corporate, municipal, institutional, and private members linked by the common interest in promoting and advancing recycling and related issues in Connecticut. Formed in 1989, the CRC assists members in improving their own programs, educating the community, and advocating policies and programs that make recycling more effective and economical. Members of the Coalition have a long history with recycling in CT, as well as other States. Most members have worked in the recycling field for decades and can offer valuable experience and expertise on different aspects of recycling, anything ranging from markets to collection to education and everything in between. We welcome your questions.

Recycling glass from curbside is problematic. Recycling single stream curbside glass is one of the biggest challenges facing recyclers today. Broken mixed glass is extremely problematic and cannot be recycled easily. In curbside recycling systems, broken glass degrades the quality of all the materials it is mixed with – paper, plastic and other glass. Most of the glass itself cannot be recycled and ends up as landfill cover. Technologies exist to separate the aggregate by color, but it is expensive. In contrast glass generated through a bottle bill program is high quality and in great demand by manufacturers of bottles and fiberglass.

Bottle Bill glass is a higher quality material. The bottle deposit law is one of Connecticut's greatest success stories. It generates a high quality material and a high percentage of material is recycled, as compared to curbside programs. Adding wine, sparkling wine, champagne and liquor bottles to this program is a smart move to make. It will increase the actual recycling of these bottles. As explained above, just because you put a glass product in your recycling bin, that doesn't mean it actually gets recycled. Once it breaks, it gets mixed with other materials and is hard to separate into a useful, high quality product.

SB 384 will reduce costs for municipalities. Implementation of this bill will help municipalities save money. The collection and processing costs of recycling glass are extremely high. By removing more glass from the curbside collection, it will change the economics of single stream recycling, costing material recovery facilities and, ultimately, cities and towns less for recycling. The end product will be cleaner and not as much dirty mixed glass will have to be disposed.

The Bottle Deposit law in CT is not perfect. The Coalition understands that the structure of the bottle deposit law in Connecticut is not perfect. CRC would welcome the challenge of hosting a working session to improve the structure of the program. There are many changes that could be made to make it less cumbersome for certain stakeholders and even better for the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this piece of legislation. We believe it is a necessary step forward to improving the recycling of glass material and moving Connecticut towards the 60% recycling goal.

Sincerely,

Kim O'Rourke & Virginia Walton, CRC Co-Presidents