



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

To the General Law Committee

In Opposition to Senate Bill 312:

**An Act Requiring the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to Study Bottle Bill Beverage
Container Refund Values and Redemption Fees**

Chairman Leone, Chairman Baram, Ranking Member Witkos, Ranking Member Carter, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 312: An Act Requiring the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to Study Bottle Bill Beverage Container Refund Values and Redemption Fees.

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. 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.

The bottle bill is by far the most effective recycling program in the state, achieving higher recycling rates than municipal recycling programs. Given the success of the bottle bill, to consider its repeal as this bill suggests, would be a substantial step backward for Connecticut.

ConnPIRG respectfully encourages the committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.

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