



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Committee on General Law
March 8, 2016
Testimony in Opposition to
SB 312 AA Requiring the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to
Study Bottle Bill Beverage Container Refund Values and Redemption Fees

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Bottle Bill has served us well since passage in the late 1970s as an important element in our solid waste strategy.

The refundable deposit is a key component. It provides an economic incentive to consumers to do the right thing on their own. It encourages people to reduce litter by providing an economic incentive for proper collection and disposal. It provides an incentive for collection for beverages consumed outside the home.

Perhaps most important, it has become one of the iconic symbols of our need and desire to do our best to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

Yes, the Bottle Bill does need some attention. We need to follow through on a longstanding intent to expand it to juices, teas, sports drinks and other beverage containers not yet covered.

So, using the honored and well tested legislative tradition known as a “strike all amendment”, the Sierra Club recommends transforming SB 312 to become the vehicle for enlarging the scope of the Bottle Bill. Your constituents will be grateful.