



P.O. Box 271646  
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127

12 March 2016

**RE: Park Watershed testimony:**

***OPPOSE*** SB 312 AA REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO STUDY BOTTLE BILL BEVERAGE CONTAINER REFUND VALUES AND REDEMPTION FEES

State of Connecticut General Law Committee

[GLtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:GLtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

**Park Watershed opposes SB 312 AA** a bill that would require CT DEEP to study bottle bill beverage container refund values and redemption fees. Thanks to the current bottle bill there has been a noticeable decline in plastic bottles litter, especially in city parks. The current bottle bill provides incentives for citizens to pick-up and return plastic bottles for recycling. Due to considerable state budget cuts, CT DEEP staff has limited time to be reviewing a program that is working.

Park Watershed is a 501c3 urban-suburban watershed stewardship organization for Park River regional watershed, which stretches east of the Metacomet Ridge to the Connecticut River. Park Watershed began in 2005 with organized clean-ups of Park River tributaries. The municipalities of West Hartford, Hartford and Bloomfield as well as parts of Newington, New Britain, Farmington and Wethersfield, are within the Park River drainage area.

Our organizational goal is to improve the water quality and ecosystem health of water courses and water bodies that enhance neighborhood character even within high-density urban development. Park Watershed fundamentally advocates for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy that conserves our regenerative resources – such as water and robust, healthy ecosystems that benefit Connecticut communities that have a desirable, sustainable quality of life.

The current refundable deposit for recycling plastic bottles, although small, are effective incentives for citizen stewardship of our urban-suburban watershed and ought to be maintained as is. For this reason, Park Watershed ***opposes SB 312 AA***.

Thank you for this opportunity to summarize our perspective,

Mary Rickel Pelletier  
Founding Director of Park Watershed

Resident of  
80 Elizabeth Street

Park Watershed  
*a 501c3 urban-suburban citizen stewardship organization for the Park River regional watershed*



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Hartford, Ct 06105