

Connecticut General Assembly – Environment Committee

Public Hearing March 13, 2017

House Bill No. 5618 – *AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE HANDLING FEE FOR BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTERS*

My name is John Chunis. I live at 40 Deerfield Run in Rocky Hill. I have been a resident and taxpayer in Connecticut since 1975.

I **oppose** this bill.

- 1) The increase in the bottle handling fee will just be passed on to the consumers as an added cost of doing business.
- 2) As such, the cost of beverages will increase. Connecticut already has one of the highest costs of living in the United States.
- 3) This is just a hidden tax, a tax that is regressive in that it will have a significant impact on poor people living on minimum wage and retired seniors living on meager pensions and social security.
- 4) I'm sure those well to do CEOs and hedge fund owners won't give a hoot if the cost of their sparkling Perrier water goes up a few cents.
- 5) How can this bill be justified in a state that claims to look after poor people???
- 6) We should eliminate the refund fee completely and just allow people to recycle their bottles in their blue boxes. This will result in lower costs for beverages which will actually help poor people!

I urge that this bill **not be approved**.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this bill