

Testimony of CT Redemption LLC

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

In Opposition of Senate Bill 996.

In Support of House Bill 5618.

My name is Priyal Garala. I own the redemption center in Windsor, CT.

All I ask is for your support of the amendment concerning increase of handling fee and the current Beverage Container Redemption law.

The so called "fee" (tax) that is raised in the bill instead of the deposit would be catastrophic to everyone including general public, fundraisers/non-profits, redemption centers, recovery companies, the unemployed and most importantly would have detrimental environmental disadvantages.

If there is no incentive to recycle, what is going to keep the public from trashing the streets, highways and parks. On top of that, imposing a beverage tax thinking it will somehow help people recycle even more?

Most importantly we have to understand the recyclers standpoint. The quality of glass from redemption exceeds than that of curbside. So, why is this bill even in question if the recyclers even agree that this has major drawbacks. Why not simply improve the current bill that we have adapted to?

We should continually keep our focus on finding ways to further help our environment and all the people that play a role in this process. One way of doing this is by expanding the bottle law to cover fruit juices and more alcoholic beverages. A far better option than the beverage "fee" tax that the general public would totally oppose in these tough economic times on everyday drink purchases.

In doing so, I ask for your support in raising the handling fee for redemption centers. The cost of doing business and inflation is continually increasing while we are stuck with 1.5¢ - 2¢ handling fee since the bill was initiated. All of

Northeast states have modernized their bottle bills. It's time we do the same.

Are we looking out of just few beverage companies or focused on recycling as a whole. Even the recycling companies whose daily operation include processing the recyclable materials from curbside agree that the quality between the redemption and curbside are significant. So, let's get to the bottom of this bill. Is this bill favoring few beverage companies whose only interest is to minimize their expense without worrying about the environmental and economical impact that will result from such bill or do we actually care about recycling?

Let's work together to make to expand the bill and in doing so help the redemption centers with a little raise to offset inflation that we have yet to receive since bottle bills' initiation. Thank you for the opportunity!

Sincerely yours,

Priyal Garala

CT Redemption LLC

77 Pierson Ln. #C

Windsor, CT 06095