

My name is Priyal Garala. My father, Ratilal Garala, and I own the redemption center in South Windsor and Windsor.

All we 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?

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. Raising the 5¢ to a 10¢ as covered by the media would incentivize more people to recycle while state would further reap the benefits of those unclaimed deposits while keeping all the general public, redemption centers, recovery companies and many more intact. 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.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

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