

**Testimony Submitted to the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly  
Re: HB 5618: An Act Concerning an Increase in the Handling Fee for Bottle Redemption  
Centers; and SB 996: An Act Establishing a Bottle Recycling Fee in Lieu of a Refundable  
Deposit.**

**Public Hearing March 13, 2017**

Dear Representative Demicco, Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Marianne Horn and I am a resident of Bloomfield, CT.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **HB 5618: An Act Concerning an Increase in the Handling Fee for Bottle Redemption Centers. I support this bill for the reasons outlined below.**

Connecticut's landmark "Bottle Bill" law, encouraging the recycling of beverage containers has been successful, but it needs to be updated to remain viable. As times have changed and the cost of doing business has risen, neither the deposit incentive nor the program fees have kept pace.

Connecticut redemption centers make it convenient for consumers to recycle. However, the owners have been struggling for many years to keep their businesses viable, and with limited ability to maintain, update or modernize their redemption equipment, many have recently closed. Since 1986, their cost of doing business has increased, yet the **handling fee (the price paid to redemption centers per container) has NOT increased in thirty years.**

An increase in the handling fee dispersed to retailers and redemption centers as proposed in this bill is important to further Connecticut's efforts to encourage container recycling. The additional money will help to keep redemption centers a viable business sector within our economy, and incentivize the public to recycle rather than producing more waste and litter.

**I also write in opposition to SB 996: An Act Establishing a Bottle Recycling Fee in Lieu of a Refundable Deposit.** This bill proposes to repeal the "Bottle Bill" deposit and replace it with a non-refundable "recycling" fee to support curbside recycling. This would effectively discourage recycling statewide – that of individual consumers as well as non-profit groups who do high-volume recycling drives as fundraisers. Moreover, a non-refundable fee program would become a new consumer tax to fund programs that would cost the State money, and thereby add to our State's projected deficit.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



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