



Written Testimony of Anne Hulick  
Connecticut Director, Clean Water Action  
Before the Environment Committee

HB 5618 An Act Concerning an Increase in the Handling Fee for Bottle Redemption Centers

March 13, 2017

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in SUPPORT of HB 5618** AAC An Increase in the Handling Fee for Bottle Redemption Centers. Clean Water Action supports any initiative to increase recycling and to reduce waste from bottles and plastic. Connecticut's current bottle bill has been effective in incentivizing recycling though the current redemption rate has not been updated in many years. Increasing the handling fee for Bottle Redemption Centers will further incentivize recycling and will enable the Redemption Centers to earn more per container returned to better cover their costs of expanded business, upgrading equipment etc.

The bottle bill currently covers carbonated soft drinks and waters as well as non-carbonated waters and beer. The bill has resulted in \$29.2 million dollars in return to the state between 2010 and 2016. We can improve this further by expanding coverage to include additional beverage containers including teas, juices, sports drinks, wine, wine coolers and beer to improve current recycling rates in Connecticut.

Plastic pollution from bottles that are not recycled are a growing problem. They end up on our roads, in parks, playgrounds, streams, rivers and oceans. Plastic takes years to biodegrade and is ingested by sea mammals and fish, often leading to their death. Every effort to increase recycling and reduce plastic and other forms of pollution is a positive step in the right direction. Clean Water Action thanks the members of the Environment Committee for raising this bill and urges its passage this session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne B. Hulick".

Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD

