

Testimony of Central Connecticut Redemption Center, New Britain, CT

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

March 13, 2017

**In Support of House Bill 5618:**

**AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE HANDLING FEE FOR BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTERS**

I would like to thank the entire Environment Committee, and Co-Chairs Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Craig Miner, and Representative Mike Demicco, for allowing me to testify in Support of Senate Bill 5618. My name is Shahil Kantesaria and I own Central Connecticut Redemption Center, in New Britain, Connecticut.

I ask all of you to support this amendment to the current Beverage Container Redemption law. However, I strongly suggest improving the law further by offering the following proposal:

1. Under Sec. 22a-245. the handling fee must be increased if possible by **July 1, 2017, to at least 3.5 cents per container**. Dealers and redemption centers have never had an “increase” under this law, which was enacted in **1980**. Dealers and redemption centers are in desperate need of relief to offset the ever rising cost of inflation and business operations that have been endured over the last 36 years. It is not a sustainable business model to be running a redemption center with ever increasing cost and no change in the handling fee.
2. Under Sec. 22a-243. (Formerly Sec. 22a-77), the law should be modernized to include additional types of non-carbonated beverage containers (lemonade, iced tea, power / sports drinks and fruit juice containers) by October 1, 2017. There are many customers that are angry with the state for not allowing non-carbonated beverage containers to be redeemed, this form of container makes up a significant portion of recycles that are being thrown in the trash rather than being recycled.
3. The law should have evolving provisions to 1) increase the handling fee periodically (for instance ½ a cent (.50 cents) every 10years) to offset future inflation and rising costs of business operations, and 2) add wording to cover all unforeseen future marketable beverage containers to the law.

All of the other Northeast states have modernized their bottle bills. I urge each of you to push for an amendment to the Connecticut Beverage Container Redemption law to be enacted on or before October 1, 2017, to include items 1-3 cited above.

Sincerely yours,

Shahil Kantesaria

Central Connecticut Redemption Center

208 Hillhurst Ave.

New Britain, CT 06078

[kantesaria.shahil@gmail.com](mailto:kantesaria.shahil@gmail.com)