

Testimony In Support of House Bill 5618

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

Thank you to all members of the Connecticut Environment Committee for considering my testimony, which is in support of H.B. 5618.

The State of Connecticut has not provided redemption centers with a “raise” to the handling fee in 35 years. The cost of doing business has gone up exorbitantly since that time, including the minimum wage, payroll taxes, unemployment taxes as well as all of the other costs associated with running a business. This handling fee increase is necessary for redemption centers to continue to operate and expand their business. In addition to raising the handling fee to at least 3.5 cents per container, please consider updating the Connecticut beverage container redemption law to encourage more of the positive results that the current bill promotes.

As you know, the Connecticut beverage container redemption law offers significant incentive to recycle and significantly reduces litter in our public spaces, including highways and roads, beaches, parks, waterways, etc. It positively affects: money conscious consumers; the unemployed and under-employed; charitable organizations, including our schools, churches, scouts, etc; it provides a whole industry of jobs, and provides clean, highly marketable commodities for recycling. Please consider the following items when updating this law:

- 1) add tea, fruit juice and sports drink containers. These containers still litter our public spaces. Adding them to the bill will increase the number of containers that are recycled and will also increase funds that escheat to the State;
- 2) provide an incentive to dealers to sponsor redemption centers, by increasing the radius allowed between the dealers and redemption centers, which will reduce the mass quantities of containers brought to the dealer; and
- 3) provide an incentive to the distributors so that they can cover the costs associated with their recovery programs.

These changes will benefit all of the stakeholders.

Please support H.B. 5618.

Thank you,

Lisa G Miers, Easton, CT

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