



**TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
March 13, 2017**

- Re No. 5618 AAC AN INCREASE IN THE HANDLING FEE FOR BOTTLE REDEMPTION CENTERS (*Support*)
- No. 996 AA ESTABLISHING A BOTTLE RECYCLING FEE IN LIEU OF A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (*Oppose*)

*To the Chairmen: Sen. Ted Kennedy Jr., Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. Mike Demicco,
And Honorable Members of the Committee:*

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and providing education on water stewardship.

We strongly support measures to reduce the enormous volume of plastic debris that is fouling our seas and fresh waters. The bottle deposit program in Connecticut has been helpful. Monetary inflation is on the horizon, and bottle handlers in Connecticut are not receiving adequate revenue to support their business. We do not have the adequate expert information to testify as to whether the formula in Bill 5618 is the best possible, but we do support the goal.

Conversely, we believe that Bill 996 will do harm to a recycling program that has been largely successful.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director,
rivers@riversalliance.org tel. 203-788-5161
Litchfield, CT 06759