

The logo for the Norwalk River Watershed Association, Inc. features the acronym "NRWA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue background that has a wavy, water-like texture at the bottom.

Norwalk River Watershed Association, Inc.

New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Wilton, CT; Lewisboro, NY

March 10, 2017

Dear Environmental Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association in support of [HB 5618](#) concerning an increase in the handling fee for bottle redemption centers. Part of the focus of the NRWA is to fight the rising levels of plastic that end up in our waterways and oceans. We believe that updating Connecticut's "bottle bill" is necessary for encouraging the successful recycling of plastic in the state. Connecticut's landmark law for 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. We need to update our "Bottle Bill" in a way that encourages consumers to increase participation and allows redeemers to earn more per container.

Thank you,

Louise Washer, President
Norwalk River Watershed Association