I am writing in strong support of HB 7294 to strengthen and expand the bottle bill. The existing bottle bill has been highly successful in keeping deposit containers from becoming litter along roadways, in waterways, and in many other locations.

HB 7294 would expand the kinds of beverages for which the bottle bill would apply; it would increase deposit fees to keep up with processing costs that have risen over the years since current deposit amounts were set; and it would strengthen facilities necessary for bottle redemption.

In addition to the environmental benefits of an expanded bottle bill, HB 7294 would also increase the incentive for individuals to pick up these bottles as means of gaining income.