The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut’s statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 99% of Connecticut’s population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

**H.B. 7294 “An Act Concerning Bottle Redemption in the State.”**

CCM supports H.B. 7294 as it seeks to, among other things, (1) expands the value of the deposit - from 5 cents to 10 cents, (2) expands the items covered under the “bottle bill” to include a variety of additional beverages such as juice, tea, sports or energy drinks and (3) increases the handling fee paid to redemption centers.

CCM would encourage the Committee to amend H.B. 7294 to incorporate the Governor’s proposal to include wine and liquor bottles under “The Bottle Bill.”

Connecticut’s bottle deposit law, also known as The Bottle Bill, took effect in 1980 and is one of Connecticut’s most successful environmental laws. Today, the law requires consumers pay a 5-cent deposit when purchasing carbonated beverages and bottled water, which is then returned to them when they return their containers to a retailer or redemption center. This refundable deposit has proven to be an effective incentive for recycling, preventing containers from ending up in streets, oceans and landfills.

According to industry experts, expanding Connecticut’s program to include other non-carbonated beverages such as sports drinks, teas and juices would add an additional 193 million containers to be collected each year. This would increase recycling and save energy while reducing litter and greenhouse gas emissions.

If enacted, H.B. 7294, will be a win-win for municipalities, businesses and the environment. Adding beverage containers, as proposed in the bill and as amended to include wine and liquor bottles, to the current narrow “bottle bill” list of soda, beer and water, we will reduce litter and divert many of these containers from costly curbside trash and recycling collection to redemption. Additionally, the increase in the handling fee will support the redemption centers and other retailers, in providing this valuable service.

For these reasons, CCM respectfully requests the Committee amend the bill to include wine and liquor bottles and to **support H.B. 7294 as amended**.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705.