Testimony of Patricia Taylor  
Director of the Plastics Project  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

**Bill 7294**

**AN ACT CONCERNING BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN THE STATE.**

To the Chairmen of the Environment Committee, Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco, and Members of the Environment Committee:

As Director of the Plastics Project for Environment and Human Health, Inc., we want to express that we are in strong favor of Bill 7294.

This bill seeks to expand Connecticut’s Bottle Bill Redemption Law of 1978. That Bill legislated mandatory refunds for bottles containing carbonated beverages. We strongly agree that our Bottle Bill needs to expand to include noncarbonated beverages – waters (including flavored and nutritionally enhanced waters), juices, teas, sports drinks and energy drinks.

Beverage bottles are made of plastic and glass. Making these containers refundable diverts them from our solid waste management and recycling streams and eliminates litter from our landscape and waterways. Waste management costs are rising rapidly for our towns and cities, so expanding our Bottle Bill will be welcomed by our communities in Connecticut.

In addition, we are concerned about the human health impact of plastic bottles that are making their way into Long Island Sound. Bottles that are refunded will be bottles kept from polluting our waters and eventually impacting the human food chain through our ingestion of seafood.

We recommend that Bill 7294 is rewritten so that all parts become effective within, at most, two years. In its present form, the section of the Bottle Bill that is most important (Sec. 2. Section 22a-244) becomes effective in July 1, 2022. This is too long a delay (three years) for the expansion of this Bottle Bill, and for no practical reasons.

Thank you for your attention,
Patricia Taylor
Director of the Plastics Project,
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
March 7, 2019