Testimony of
Michael Wellman, President of Container Collection Services, Envipco
before the
Connecticut Environment Committee
H.B. No. 7294 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING BOTTLE REDEMPTION IN THE STATE. (ENV)
March 11, 2019

Senator Cohen, Representative DeMicco, Senator Kushner, Representative Gresko, Senator Miner, Representative Harding and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

Environmental Products Corp, “Envipco,” is a Connecticut manufacturer headquartered in Naugatuck. Our manufacturing facility and technical services operations provide Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) redemption service technology to over 125 retail locations, with more than 600 points of redemption for the public.

Our business depends on the bottle bill, which is recognized worldwide as the most efficient and effective means of beverage container recycling and litter reduction. Envipco’s operations contribute to the state’s economy by supporting locally based vendors who, along with Envipco, provide good paying manufacturing and technical services jobs statewide. Each year, Envipco purchases millions of dollars of vendor goods and services from other Connecticut businesses.

Envipco has testified in the past to the effectiveness of container deposit systems to control litter and preserve material quality for recycling and reuse. HB 7294 seeks to buttress and modernize the Connecticut container deposit program, also known as the Bottle Bill.

HB 7294 will advance the Connecticut Bottle Bill’s capabilities for removing container waste from CT public spaces to include parks, beaches, water-ways, and highways while at the same time supporting CT manufacturing and technical services jobs.

Given renewed concerns with material quality, growing municipal recycling costs and increased awareness of the proliferation of single use plastics, it is particularly important that the Committee take steps this year to ensure the future viability of the State’s bottle bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for raising HB 7294 this year and the Committee’s discussion of improvements to Connecticut’s bottle bill so that it can be modernized to achieve higher State-wide waste reduction and ensure fair compensation to all of the program service providers.

Very Truly Yours,
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS CORPORATION

Michael Wellman
President – Container Collection Services