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## Save Connecticut's Bottle Bill:

### Modernize—Don't Repeal—Connecticut's Most Successful Recycling Law

Connecticut's bottle deposit law (AKA "The Bottle Bill") took effect in 1980, and has proven to be one of Connecticut's most effective tools for eliminating litter and promoting recycling in our communities. Consumers pay a 5-cent refundable deposit when purchasing carbonated beverages and bottled water, which they can redeem when they return their containers to be recycled. *This 100% refundable deposit is a proven financial incentive to encourage recycling of carbonated beverage containers and water bottles, preventing them from ending up in the trash or littering our environment!*



#### Vote "NO" on "The Bottle Tax" (aka the Delaware Model)

Connecticut's Bottle Bill has come under attack in recent years by beverage manufacturers and distributors seeking to avoid their responsibilities under the law. This has led to an ongoing effort to eliminate Connecticut's bottle deposit law and replace it with a non-refundable 4-cent tax on every beverage container sold in the state. This would lead to approximately \$57 million in new taxes to consumers each year. **Additionally, the new tax would destroy the value placed on single-serve beverage containers, leading to an estimated 300 million unit drop in container recycling annually<sup>1</sup>.**



*Repealing CT's Bottle Deposit eliminates the incentive to recycle--meaning hundreds of millions of containers littering our parks, beaches and open spaces every year!*

National recycling data demonstrates that bottle bill programs are the most effective policy options for reducing litter from assorted beverage containers. According to the Container Recycling Institute, deposit systems can reduce beverage container litter by 69-84%, and can result in an overall decrease in litter by 30-65%.<sup>2</sup>

#### The Bottle Tax is a Job Killer for CT

Replacing the bottle deposit with a non-refundable bottle tax would essentially end a decades-old industry in Connecticut, eliminating between 780-1,200 recycling-related jobs in the state<sup>3</sup>. This includes job losses at bottle redemption centers (across 21 towns), resource recovery firms, waste haulers, and other related industries. Connecticut is also home to ENVIPCO and TOMRA, which manufacture reverse vending machines used in container redemption centers.

<sup>1</sup>"Winners and Losers: A Financial Analysis of Connecticut Senate Bill 996." Addendum to Letter of testimony from the Container Recycling Institute to the Connecticut Joint Committee on the Environment, March 2017.

<sup>2</sup>"Bottle Bills Prevent Litter." Container Recycling Institute website: <http://www.bottlebill.org/about/benefits/litter.htm>

<sup>3</sup>TOMRA jobs analysis, April, 2017

## Opportunities to Improve & Modernize CT's Bottle Bill

### Expand the Program to Include Juices, Teas and other Popular Soft Drinks

Connecticut's Bottle Bill incentivizes recycling of single serving carbonated beverage containers and water bottles sold in Connecticut. Just as water was added in 2009 to keep up with changing market trends, the law must now be expanded to include juices, teas, sports drinks, and other non-carbonated beverages, which have seen a rapid growth in popularity among consumers in recent years. *Expanding the program to include additional non-carbonated beverages beyond bottled water, including sports drinks, teas, and juice, could increase recycling by an additional 193 million containers annually.*<sup>4</sup>

***Please support passage of an amendment to expand Connecticut's Bottle Bill to include juices, teas, sports drinks, and other non-carbonated beverages!***

### Vote "YES" on HB 5618 to Increase Handling Fees Paid to Redemption Centers

In addition to a bottle deposit, redemption centers and retailers in Connecticut are paid a handling fee of 1.5 cents for each beer container and 2 cents for each carbonated soft drink and water bottle returned. While bottle deposit laws have been updated periodically in neighboring states, Connecticut's bottle bill has not been adjusted to keep pace with inflation. As a result, redemption centers in Connecticut have struggled to cover the daily overhead costs associated with handling, storage and processing of single-serve beverage containers. This has led to multiple redemption centers in the state closing their doors, including facilities in Bristol, Hartford, and Wallingford, CT.

Comparison of Neighboring States' Fees	
State	Handling Fees
CT	Beer - 1.5¢ Soda, Water - 2¢
ME	3.5 - 4¢
MA	2.25¢ - 3.25¢
NY	3.5¢
VT	3.5 - 4¢

**Increasing handling fees paid to redemption centers is a critical fix**

**needed to maintain a working bottle deposit program in Connecticut.** HB 5618 would update the bottle bill by raising the handling fees for container recycling. This would put Connecticut in line with neighboring states, creating a more sustainable framework for redemption centers charged with collecting and managing recycled glass, aluminum and plastic beverage containers.

**REMEMBER- Bottle Deposits Work (and they make cents!)**

**YOU can help Save Connecticut's Bottle Bill by:**

- **Saying "NO" to the Bottle Tax!**
- **Supporting an amendment to expand Connecticut's Bottle Bill to cover juices, teas, and other non-carbonated soft drink containers!**
- **Voting "YES" on HB 5618, to approve an increase in the handling fees paid to redemption centers to support container recycling and jobs in Connecticut!**

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<sup>4</sup> "Connecticut Beverage Market Data Analysis," Container Recycling Institute, Feb. 2017.

