

Save Connecticut's Bottle Bill!

It's Too Good to Throw Away!

*Rep. Pat Widlitz, Environment Committee Chair, has sponsored a bill (A6258) that would **repeal** Connecticut's 23-year old, highly successful bottle bill and replace it with a controversial "advanced disposal fee" (ADF).*

YOUR help is needed **now** to stop this repeal effort in its tracks!

-  **What is the bottle bill?** It places a **100% refundable** 5¢ deposit on carbonated beverages. When consumers return these bottles & cans to a store or redemption center, they get the 5¢ back. Period.
-  **What is an ADF?** It is a **non-refundable tax** on containers, probably 1-2 cents. The money would be used to support more curbside recycling, but would do nothing to provide away-from-home recycling opportunities that would work as well as the bottle bill has. An ADF would place an unreasonable financial burden on municipalities to provide taxpayer-funded curbside recycling programs. And ADFs provide no incentive for people to pick up litter.
-  **What has the bottle bill done for Connecticut?** Since 1980, the bottle bill has kept over 8.5 billion bottles and cans off of our streets, beaches and parks, and out of landfills and incinerators. That's more than 1.6 million tons of material that would have been littered, buried or burned. Bottle bills provide effective recycling without putting a burden on the taxpayer or government.
-  **What would happen if the bottle bill were repealed?** **Litter** would mount. If you don't believe it--visit a non-deposit state to see the difference on roads and parks. **Energy and resources** would be wasted. And thousands of **hardworking families and low-income individuals** would be hurt by the loss of this supplementary income. Without a deposit law, bottle & can fundraising drives would also disappear, and many organizations would suffer, including school marching bands, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, churches and synagogues, hospitals, programs for the handicapped, etc.
-  **Who supports the Connecticut bottle bill?** **Non-profit public interest** groups, environmental groups, labor, anti-litter advocates, small business owners, and advocates for disabled people and low-income families. For example, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, ConnPIRG, the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, and the Container Recycling Institute.
-  **Who supports the ADF proposal?** The multi-billion dollar soft drink, beer and grocery industry lobbies: Pepsi, Coke, the National Soft Drink Association, the Beer Wholesalers, among others.

Show your support for our bottle bill . . .



Attend the hearing!
Connecticut State Capitol, Room 1D
House Environment Committee
12:00 noon, Friday, March 14, 2003



**Write letters in support
of the bottle bill** 
(see reverse for sample letter and addresses)

**Call Rep. Widlitz to voice
your opposition to this bill**

 **(860) 240-2440** 

Rep. Patricia Widlitz
Chair, Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Sample letter

Dear Rep. Widlitz and members of the Environment Committee,

We, your constituents and citizens of Connecticut, support our Bottle Bill because it **reduces litter, saves tax dollars and achieves high rates of bottle and can recycling.** The refundable deposit on carbonated soft drinks and beer has worked in our state for 23 years, keeping more than 8.5 billion beverage containers off of our streets, beaches and parks, and out of landfills.

Taxpayers have saved millions of dollars in litter clean-up and landfill disposal costs since the 5¢ deposit on bottles and cans started in 1980. Curbside recycling now offers Connecticut's residents an additional recycling opportunity, but curbside recycling is no substitute for deposits. The two systems can, and should, work together.

Curbside recycling does nothing to solve the litter problem caused by cans and bottles that are consumed away from home and tossed out the car window. If the Bottle Bill is repealed, millions of bottles and cans will litter our state each year and taxpayers will pay to clean them up. Millions more will go to landfills and incinerators, and once again, taxpayers will pay the bill.

A vote to repeal the bottle bill is really a vote for litter and waste, and a vote for higher taxes. Soft drink, beer and grocery companies are all for recycling--so long as the taxpayer foots the bill. The bottom line is this: refundable deposits are a tried and true approach to litter prevention and beverage container recycling. We urge you to vote NO on HB 6258: it's bad for recycling, bad for taxpayers, and will create a litter crisis.

Sincerely,
Your name



Call or write other members of the Environment Committee!



Names, phone numbers, home addresses, email addresses and websites can be

found at: www.cga.state.ct.us/asp/menu/MemberList.asp?comm_code=env&doc_type=

or by calling the Environment Committee at (860) 240-2440.

Find your own legislators:

House Democrats: (800) 842-8267 House Republicans (800) 842-1423

Senate Clerk's Office: (860) 240-0500