



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

March 17, 2021

Co-chairs Cohen and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Slap and Palm, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and other distinguished members of the Environment Committee

Re: SB [1037](#) - An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management.

Honorable members,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) supports the provisions of SB 1037 to modernize the Bottle Bill. In October of 2020, the Council released a special report, [Low Deposit, Low Return](#), which included recommendations to modernize Connecticut's beverage container deposit program. The research done for the report indicated that a five-percent increase of the beverage container deposit could raise beverage container redemptions by, at least, fifty percent above the current level. An increase of this magnitude removes bottles from the waste stream, reduces cross-contamination with other recyclable materials and reduces the cost of disposal of municipal solid waste.

The Bill's expansion of the types of containers that are eligible for redemption will multiply the benefits described above. It is a significant step towards achieving a reduction in municipal solid waste by using infrastructure and methods that already exist to collect and process beverage containers.

A handling fee increase, as proposed in the Bill, should offset any increase in capital or labor costs that could result from the anticipated increase in container redemptions. Additionally, it might incentivize the expansion of redemption centers across the State.

For these reasons the Council strongly supports SB 1037.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn
Executive Director