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NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

Brescome Barton Comments On DEEP Implementation Of Public Act 21-58: Bottle Bill Modernization

Brescome Barton, Inc., the largest distributor of spirits, wine and beer in the State of Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to engage in the stakeholder engagement process on the DEEP implementation of Public Act 21-58, An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management. We applaud the efforts that DEEP and the Connecticut General Assembly took in modernizing the Bottle Bill and we look forward to being part of the solution.

We believe that a solution can be found if all stakeholders; manufacturers, distributors, package stores, municipalities and recycling companies, can come together to create a solution to the growing problem of glass in the waste stream. As you are well aware, with the imminent closure of the MIRA plant and the lack of viable off-takers, municipalities will soon be faced with significantly higher costs of waste removal, some of which is caused by heavy glass bottles.

With the cooperation of legislative leaders and others in the industry we developed an innovative first in the nation solution to the problem of nips littering our streets, beaches and parks. Our nip solution will send significant much-needed funding to Connecticut municipalities, to allow them to prevent and remove litter caused by careless disposal of nips.

We are currently working with stakeholders to develop another innovative solution which would allow for the removal and in state recycling of wine and liquor beverage containers into furnace ready cullet or byproduct that is melted or otherwise used in cement, glass or fiberglass products. We will be providing additional details when our proposal is finalized.

Brescome Barton joins with the Connecticut Beer Wholesaler's Association in opposing the stewardship model proposed in PA 21-58. We are very concerned that implementation of this plan has a yet to be determined cost that could have a major impact on a critically important state industry, resulting in the loss of jobs and significantly higher prices for consumers.

In closing, we ask that industry stakeholders be given the opportunity to develop a cost effective solution that meets the needs of municipalities and consumers and allows the wine and spirits industry to prosper.

In 2020 Brescome Barton collected over \$14M in excise taxes for the State of Connecticut. We provide \$34.5M in wages and benefits to 400 Connecticut employees, half of which are union jobs, well as seasonal and temporary labor opportunities. We paid over \$8.6M to Connecticut vendors and distributed products which created retail sales of over \$18M. In addition, we paid \$292K in property taxes to the Town of North Haven and donated \$220K to local and national charities.