

November 16, 2021

To: The Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Re: Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program  
(pursuant to [June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2](#))  
From: Voices of Women of Color

History demands our diligence, intentionality, and examination of possible outcomes and consequences of our position (s) and actions. To that end, we submit the following, additional criteria and/or considerations that DEEP should take into account to optimize redemption center grant funding:

- The grant program should be awarded to first-time redemption center owners, and locally-owned, African-American/Latinex and/or women-owned businesses should be a priority.
- Ensure equitable access to redemption centers. Ideally, redemption facilities should be within five miles of all residents, but not located within the boundaries of the residential streets in North Hartford. DEEP should use available tools (such as GIS) to identify suitable redemption center locations. All proposals should take into account safe pedestrian access to the site, accessibility of the site to public transportation, and travel time.
- The Program must support economic development and employment opportunities (\$15 per hour minimum wage} in underserved communities.
- Expand the return to retail to include chain stores with greater than 7,500 sq. feet.
- Modern redemption technology must be employed. Deep must have clear expectations, and should only consider proposals that delineates plans for maintaining a high standard of health protocols, cleanliness and continuous improvement.
- The stewardship organization must obtain input from an advisory board, a diverse group of CT deposit system stakeholders, including residents and local leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise T. Best*  
President & CEO

November 16, 2021

To: The Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
Re: Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program  
(pursuant to [June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2](#))

Additional Signatories:

Milly Arciniegas, HPU  
Ashley Collins, VOWOC  
Yvonne Davis, Davis World Training  
Angela Harris, St. Phillips CME  
Kamora Herrington, Kamora's Cultural Corner  
Diane Lewis, VOWOC  
Tyler Napper, VOWOC  
Shelby Williams, VOWOC

Cc:

Environment Committee  
Black and Puerto Rican Caucus  
Senator Dennis Bradley  
Senator John Fonfara  
Senator Doug McCrory  
Senator Marilyn Moore  
Senator Gary Winfield  
Representative Minnie Gonzales  
Representative Joshua Hall  
Representative Brandon McGee  
Representative Robyn Porter

