

Testimony in SUPPORT HB0099 Beverage Container Deposit Program - Establishment and Advisory Commission

Hearing Date: February 9, 2021

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Love

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Submitting: Less Plastic Please

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the committee,

Bottle bills (also known as container deposit laws) are a proven, sustainable method of capturing beverage bottles and cans for recycling. [1]

Bottle bills have a very long track record of success and are common in many states. With Oregon leading the pack in 1971, now eleven states, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Vermont have benefited from bottle deposit laws. [2]

The benefits of bottle bills are numerous. Here are a few benefits:

#### Simplicity

A bottle bill is as common sense and beautifully simplistic as its name suggests. Deposits work because they provide a financial incentive to recycle and a *disincentive* to litter.

#### Creates high-quality recyclable materials

For curbside recycling, the average recycling contamination rate is 25%, or 1 in 4 items.[2]

Contamination creates a plethora of problems, from decreasing the quality of recyclable byproduct, to sending otherwise recyclable items to landfills, to making recycling more expensive due to time spent on separating items.

Bottle bills, on the other hand, produces high-quality recyclable materials since it is a single stream product. Bales of PET from deposit return systems generally have a yield rate of about 85 percent [1] On average, states with deposit-return systems recover roughly three times more beverage containers than non-CDR states. [4]

#### Job Producer

Create jobs and new businesses that can't be outsourced and bring consumers back to grocery stores. Depending on the system, container deposit-return (CDR) systems create 11 to 38 times more jobs than curbside recycling. [4]

Most importantly, this bill helps the environment

By decreasing litter, reducing energy use and natural resources, and decreases greenhouse gas emissions, this legislation helps us to be good ancestors.

"To damage the earth is to damage your children."

-Wendell Berry, Farmer and Poet

I urge you to vote favorably on HB0099.

- [1] <https://www.bottlebill.org>
- [2] <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Bottles/Bottle-Bill-FAQ>
- [2] <https://www.rubicon.com/blog/recycling-contamination-facts/>
- [3] <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/recyclingandoperationsprogram/pages/recyclingrates.aspx>
- [4] <https://nerc.org/documents/Webinars/Bottle%20Bills--Benefits%20and%20Challenges/Bottle%20Bills%20Overview.pdf>
- <https://www.container-recycling.org/index.php/issues/jobs>