APR POSITION STATEMENT
5/30/06

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE:
The Repeal of Existing Sate Deposit Laws

APR POSITION: The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) and its members collectively represent more than 90% of the post-consumer plastics recycling capacity in North America. APR members have a direct interest in the enhancement of post-consumer plastics recycling.

The APR opposes efforts to repeal existing State Deposit Laws related to beverage containers.

Value:
No alternative mechanism has been identified to replace existing deposit laws that would provide a similar stream of consistent, high volume, high-quality supply generated by these programs. The loss of this supply would have significant consequences for the plastics recycling industry and the recycling infrastructure.

Current Legislative Activity: Since 2001, various states including Hawaii, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York have experienced repeal efforts.

Key Messages:
- Repeal of bottle bill laws would be devastating to the post-consumer plastics recycling industry as a significant portion of the supply today comes from these States.
- Repeal of bottle bills should not be proposed without a comparable replacement system to prevent a reduction in the collection rate and the supply of post consumer plastics.
- Expansion of bottle bills should be considered to provide a level playing field for all Plastic Bottles.
- Repeal legislation if implemented will require additional investment in alternative collection systems and funding of this must be considered.
- The effect on municipal collection programs should be considered when crafting legislation.
- Repeal legislation, if implemented, will reduce the quality and inherent value of the plastic waste stream.
- APR will continue to coordinate with all plastic recycling stakeholders to implement various programs to increase supply and improve quality of recyclable material.

Challenges:
- There is a strong lobby against deposits in any form.
- Limited grass roots support from the public and environmental groups.
- Limited individual Industry support.
Key Actions:

- APR Communications: publish this position on the website, offer to outside publications.
- APR Promotion: present position at conferences and other venues as appropriate.
- APR Government Relations: As legislatures propose repeal of Bottle Bills APR will:
  Write letters of opposition, provide testimony, provide press releases, submit comments
  for the public record and generate letters from member companies.
- APR Collaboration: Create opportunities with other stakeholders to identify and offer
  alternative methods to increase supply of the post-consumer plastics stream.

Note from the Container Recycling Institute:
This document was downloaded from the APR
website at http://plasticsrecycling.org/about_us/
position_statements.asp