

Save Connecticut's Bottle Bill

Beer and Soda distributors want to eliminate Connecticut's successful bottle bill and shift the cost of litter control onto the backs of taxpayers.

- Repealing the bottle bill would return Connecticut to the days when millions of bottles and cans littered our roadways, beaches and parks.
- Without the bottle bill, municipalities and taxpayers would be forced to bear increased costs for litter control and recycling.
- Repealing the bottle bill would hurt charities and civic groups. School bands, scout troops and others rely on bottle and can drives to raise funds.
 - "Cans For Kids" based in Enfield, has raised over the years \$250,000, all which is donated to the CT Children's Medical Center.
 - In West Haven, The West Haven Pound Pals depend on these dollars raised for a significant portion of their budget
 - In Lakeville, \$50,000 has been raised over the years for a scholarship fund
- The bottle bill created thousands of jobs in Connecticut. Get rid of the bottle bill and those jobs will be lost - hurting Connecticut's economy.
- Hundreds of Connecticut jobs would be eliminated. The companies that handle the recycling of these cans and bottles provide hundreds of jobs, they also contract work to numerous other state businesses.
- A coalition of environmentalists, labor, business and non-profits are fighting to save the bottle bill from repeal.

PROBLEM

- Connecticut's combination of the bottle bill and curbside recycling maximizes recycling of beverage containers. States without bottle bills, which must rely on curbside recycling alone, recycle far fewer bottles and cans than Connecticut.
- Bottle bill opponents claim an ADF or "Advanced Disposal Fee" paid when consumers purchase soda or beer is a better idea than the bottle bill. This is false: ADF is a new tax on the backs of consumers. It is little more than an attempt by beer and soda distributors to evade responsibility for the environmental impact of their products.
- Adding insult to injury, the distributors are fighting a bill that would return to the state (and taxpayers) over \$20 million per year in unclaimed deposits from bottles and cans that aren't returned. Most consumers are unaware that the distributors currently get to keep this money.





HISTORY

Connecticut's landmark bottle bill law was passed in 1978. In the 25 years since then, it has proven to be a tremendously successful method of reducing litter and promoting recycling. Consumers pay a 5 cent deposit when purchasing carbonated beverage containers. When they return the empty container, they get their entire deposit back. This 100% refundable deposit is a positive incentive to recycle bottles and cans instead of littering or throwing them away.

The bottle bill is proven to be effective at keeping our roadsides, beaches and parks clean. Bottle and can drives are a source of funding for schools, charities, youth groups and even scholarship funds. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are raised each year by groups through these fundraisers. Over 1 billion bottles and cans are returned for deposit and recycled each year in Connecticut!



How has the bottle bill helped Connecticut?

The bottle bill does not cost taxpayers even one nickel. 21 out of every 24 bottles and cans sold are redeemed. Over the past 25 years, the bottle bill has kept over 20 billion bottles and cans off streets, beaches parks and out the trash. Without it, more than 1.3 million tons of recyclable material would have been littered, buried or burned.

Connecticut's recycling industry employs hundreds of residents in jobs such as low-skilled labor, teamster truck drivers and technicians. Hundreds more jobs are provided by vendors serving the recyclers.



What's next?

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is on record opposing the misguided ADF tax and repeal of the bottle bill.

An unprecedented coalition of labor, business, environmentalists and charities has joined forces to protect the bottle bill.

The Container Recycling Institute, a nationally recognized recycling advocacy group has joined the fight to save Connecticut's bottle bill.



Where do you get more information?

Contact your legislators and let them know they should save the bottle bill. Make sure they don't throw away 25 years of success.

For additional information you can contact "Save Connecticut's Bottle Bill" Coalition members:

Connecticut Sierra Club

www.connecticut.sierraclub.org

860.233.7554

CT Redemption Centers Association

Joe Roberto

860.290.1750

Teamsters

John Hollis

860.289.2645

Container Recycling Institute

www.bottlebill.org

703.276.9800

Connecticut Audubon Society

www.ctaudubon.org

860.508.1580

**The Connecticut Public Interest Research Group
(ConnPIRG)**

Christopher Phelps

198 Park Road

West Hartford

860-233-7554

cphelps@connpirg.org

www.connpirg.org

TOMRA North America

Chuck Riegler

203.455.5014

