



February 21, 2011

Honorable Steven N. Olson, Chairman, Environmental Protection Committee,
Members of the Environmental Protection Committee
and
Members of the Iowa Legislature
State Capital
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Chairman Olson, Committee Members and State Legislators:

My name is Michael Wellman, President - Container Collection Services for Environmental Products Corporation ("Envipco"). On behalf of Envipco, its Iowa employees and along with the support of local community and charity groups that rely on bottle drive deposit donations, I write in opposition to HB 74 "Bottle Bill Repeal."

Envipco's Iowa operation is headquartered in Cedar Rapids and provides Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) deposit services to 60 retail locations and 125 distributors throughout the State. Our business supports locally based vendors such as Welter Equipment, Hupp Toyota Lift, Hawkeye Fire and Safety Co., Fort Dodge, Allegra Printing Co. who along with Envipco provide hundreds of jobs state-wide. Envipco is committed to recycling deposit containers through high tech solutions, while providing good paying high skilled jobs, and facilitating a better cleaner Iowa for our children.

H.B. 74, legislation to repeal the bottle bill, attempts to replace a private sector incentive system (that cleans-up container litter and funds community groups) with a government system of enforcement and increased fines. Government bureaucracy in place of private sector incentives is not the right path for Iowa.

H.B. 74 in its current form has harmful unintended consequences:

- Increases government overhead at taxpayer expense
 - Litter penalties will not offset enforcement costs
- Hurts community groups such as churches, school bands, and youth sports
 - Eliminates bottle drive donations
- Hurts public safety
 - Increases glass-related sutured laceration injuries in children¹

¹ Laceration injuries at Children's Hospital, Boston dropped 60% following enactment of the Bottle Bill. Baker MD, Moore SE, and Wise PH. *The Impact of 'Bottle Bill' Legislation on the Incidence of Lacerations in Childhood,* *American Journal of Public Health*, 76, 10 (1986) 1243-1244.

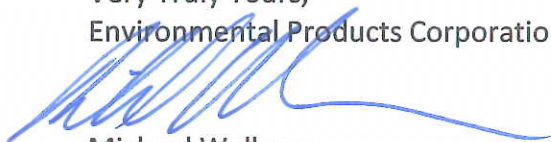
- Hurts farmers
 - Container litter kills livestock and contaminates crop harvest²
- Hurts local Independence Day celebrations
 - 4th of July fireworks widely subsidized by bottle deposit donations
- Hurts Iowa volunteer fire departments
 - Bottle drives widely used to fund equipment purchases and operations

Repeal of the Bottle Bill not only puts Envipco - Iowa out of business but hurts the local community.

I ask that the "Bottle Bill Repeal" be removed from HR 74.

Thank you for your time. I remain available to provide further information as necessary.

Very Truly Yours,
Environmental Products Corporation



Michael Wellman
President - Container Collection Services

² "In our heavily agricultural state, beverage containers tossed from car windows onto farmers' fields present special problems. Dairy cows suffer lacerated organs – and – die after chewing on cans. Plastic containers are ground up in harvesters, contaminating hay, feed and vegetable crops, causing millions of dollars in damage." - Larry Breech, President, PA Farmers Union. Breech, Larry. "U.S. Bottle Bill Deserves Support." [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) 21 Oct. 2002.