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Testimony of Susan Collins, Container Recycling Institute
in regard to
AB 962, Reusable Beverage Containers
California Assembly Natural Resources Committee
April 12, 2021

Dear Chair Rivas, Vice Chair Flora, and Members of the Committee,

As you may know, the Container Recycling Institute (CRI) is a national nonprofit organization and an authority on the economic and environmental impacts of beverage container recycling.

We are writing to state our wholehearted support for the reusable beverage container bill [AB 962](#): “An act to amend Section 14539 of, and to add Sections 14525.1 and 14576 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.”

Refilling beverage containers has significant environmental benefits in terms of reduced energy use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions, as Assemblymember Kamlager’s Fact Sheet on AB962 correctly points out.

Actions to promote a bottle washing and refilling infrastructure in California will create meaningful and productive green jobs as well. This is especially important now: not only because it will help the state’s economy recover from the ravages of the current pandemic, but because the state has lost so many recycling jobs due to redemption center closures over the past several years.

As an addendum to this letter, we have attached a draft of a Fact Sheet that CRI is close to publishing: “**Exploring refillables in the United States.**” It contains anecdotal information about refillables operations in other states for a variety of beverages.

Please let me know if you have any questions about how a refillable bottle infrastructure might benefit California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Susan Collins'.

Susan Collins
President, Container Recycling Institute

Encl: “Exploring refillables in the United States.” Apr. 7, 2021. Container Recycling Institute.

About the Container Recycling Institute: CRI is a nonprofit organization and a leading authority on the economic and environmental impacts of beverage containers and other consumer-product packaging.