

Dear Legislator,

Connecticut's forced deposit law, also known as the "bottle bill" was enacted more than four decades ago and is outdated. The current forced deposit law requires retailers and stores across the state to charge customers an extra 5¢ on beer, soda, and water containers, and if House Bill 7294 is enacted, that fee would increase and include even more beverages such as teas, juices, and sports drinks. This deposit law is just another hidden tax on shoppers in Connecticut.

There are ongoing discussions in Hartford about the deposit law, which will increase costs for consumers by millions of dollars each year. These cost increases would also add a burden for our member retailers. If House Bill 7294 passes, they will have to redeem many of the containers manually, requiring more staff, more space, and potentially resulting in longer lines at customer service counters.

The state already has robust municipal recycling programs that allow people to easily recycle from home. Expanding forced deposits are counterproductive, will increase costs and space for retailers, drive up grocery bills for consumers, and have only a negligible impact on the environment.

Instead of continuing to add more money into an unsuccessful program, we urge you to invest in creating more accessible and effective recycling efforts, and not add hidden fees to beverage products across the state.

Sincerely,