MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Bottle Bill Expansion

A. 5028a – Englebright

S.2129a - Kaminsky

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to returnable bottles; and to amend chapter 58 of the laws of 2013 amending the environmental conservation law and the state finance law relating to the "Cleaner, Greener NY Act of 2013", in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

BACKGROUND
The Returnable Container Act of 1982, commonly referred to as the Bottle Bill, is one of New York State’s most successful environmental laws. The law placed a 5-cent deposit on carbonated beverages and malt liquor bottles, thereby creating an incentive to recycle. The Bottle Bill was updated in 2009 to reflect a changing market, by also including a deposit on water bottles. The Bottle Bill has helped to reduce litter by 70%, increase recycling rates, and save energy and natural resources.

JUSTIFICATION
While the Bottle Bill stands as one of New York’s most successful environmental laws, it is in need of an update to help address a growing solid waste crisis in NYS and to reflect a changing beverage market. Wine and spirit containers are almost exclusively made of glass, which is not easily recycled through curbside programs and often contaminates other recyclable items, but can be recovered for markets, and support local jobs, if kept clean through the Bottle Bill program. Adding a deposit on these containers would help ease the burden that municipal recycling facilities are currently facing by keeping these materials out of the traditional waste stream. The legislation would place a deposit on a much broader range of beverages that are popular today, including teas, sports drinks, coffee drinks, and other non-carbonated beverages—significantly increasing recycling rates and reducing plastic pollution in our communities and waterways.

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS
• Places a 5-cent deposit on wine, liquor, distilled spirits, cider, and wine products.
• Phases in a 5-cent deposit on noncarbonated soft drinks, noncarbonated fruit and vegetable juices containing less than 100% fruit or vegetable juice, coffee and tea beverages, and carbonated fruit beverages.
• Establishes minimum post-consumer content requirement for glass, aluminum, PET, and plastic beverage containers.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
A.5028A—BOTTLE BILL EXPANSION

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