MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
Modernizing Connecticut’s Bottle Bill

S.B. 1037: AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND
Connecticut’s container deposit law was enacted in 1978 as a litter prevention method aimed at recyclable bottles and cans. The law only applied to carbonated beverages initially and was updated in 2008 to include bottled water. The “bottle bill” has captured billions of single-serve beverage containers, increasing recycling while saving municipalities millions in solid waste and recycling costs over time. Unfortunately, the program has not been updated recently to keep up with changing market trends and inflation. As a result, Connecticut’s redemption rate on covered containers has fallen below 50%, leaving hundreds of millions of containers in the trash or worse, littering our communities.

JUSTIFICATION
✓ S.B. 1037 would significantly increase consumer convenience by expanding public access to redemption centers and Reverse Vending Machine infrastructure.
✓ The bill would significantly strengthen the incentive to recycle by raising the deposit on covered containers from $.05 to $.10 cents.
✓ The program would help cut down on litter in our communities by expanding the program to cover juices teas, sports drinks, and liquor nips.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS
- Raise the handling fee on covered containers across the board to 3.5 cents, effective July 2021.
- Require chain stores with more than 10K square foot of retail space to provide reverse vending machines for convenient redemption access, effective July 2021.
- Increase the deposit on covered containers from 5 -10 cents, effective January 2022.
- Expand the program to cover non-carbonated beverages, which include juices, teas, sports drinks, kombucha, hard cider and liquor nips, effective July 2022.
- Require DEEP to develop a memorandum of agreement that provides for the in-state processing of not less than 80% of wine and liquor bottles into furnace-ready cullet or by-product for use in cement, glass, or fiberglass products by January 1, 2023.
- Authorizes DEEP to establish an incentive program for municipalities interested in adopting a Unit Based Pricing model for solid waste management.

Citizens Campaign for the Environment Supports S.B. No. 1037-
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Citizens Campaign for the Environment is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.

www.citizenscampaign.org
April 2021