

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
45 South Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

Philip J. Hamel, Jr.
Resource Recovery Project Coordinator
(203) 294-2061

March 13, 2003

DRAFT

Environment Committee
State of Connecticut
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Attention: Senator Donald E. Williams, Co-Chair
Representative Patricia M. Widlitz, Co-Chair

Dear Committee Members:

I am the staff person for the five municipalities in the Wallingford waste-to-energy project (Cheshire, Hamden, Meriden, North Haven and Wallingford). I am writing in support of Raised Bill Number 1030, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESCHEAT OF UNCLAIMED BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSITS, but request that it be amended to provide that the unclaimed beverage container deposits be paid to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) and other resources recovery authorities as proposed in SB 734 and HB 6044.

Right now every resident of the state is paying for the recycling and disposal of unredeemed beverage containers. Costs are incurred because of increased volumes while collecting solid waste and recyclable materials, at recycling drop off centers, at waste-to-energy plants and at other disposal facilities.

CRRA provides waste disposal services for more than 125 towns and a very large portion of Connecticut's population. Returning the unclaimed deposits to CRRA and other authorities or municipalities would help to offset increased costs of disposal and to subsidize recycling efforts in the state. It is an appropriate use of the unredeemed deposits made by Connecticut residents under the bottle bill. It would also be a positive step during a time of reduced state assistance to municipalities.

We believe it is in the interest of all Connecticut municipalities and residents that unclaimed beverage container deposits be paid to CRRA, and — through an equitable formula — to municipalities not served by CRRA.

Environment Committee 3/13/03

Page 2

Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Hamel, Jr.

cc: Mr. Michael Milone, Town Manager, Cheshire
Mr. Carl Amento, Mayor, Hamden
Mr. Roger Kemp, City Manager, Meriden
Mr. Kevin Kopetz, First Selectman, North Haven
Mr. William Dickinson, Mayor, Wallingford

Bill1030-6044Comment.doc