



CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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CRRA Proposes Amendment to Bottle Bill Expansion Authority Says Public Recycling Facilities Should Begin Receiving Handling Fee, Redeeming Containers; Funds Would Help Preserve Municipal Recycling Programs

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is promoting a slight modification to the Bottle Bill expansion being considered by the General Assembly. SB 1289 would extend the current deposit law to plastic and other non-carbonated beverage containers and would raise to three cents per container the handling fee retailers receive for processing deposit bottles and cans.

CRRA is proposing that publicly-owned recycling facilities – which already process tens of millions of deposit bottles and cans each year – be authorized to redeem those deposit containers and receive the handling fee.

Today CRRA released the following statement:

“The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is among the largest, most successful recycling organizations in the nation. We at CRRA are committed to preserving our environment and reducing the costs of managing our solid wastes through effective recycling programs for the benefit of the public. We are Connecticut’s recycling experts.

“Regrettably, CRRA cannot support the expansion of the Bottle Bill as currently drafted due to the substantial adverse effect it would have on the state’s remarkably successful curbside and drop-off recycling programs. Citizens of Connecticut would see their opportunities to recycle a larger portion of their waste diminish if this bill were to become law. The curbside and drop-off recycling systems depend on revenue from the sale of recycled commodities to subsidize the collection and recycling of millions of pounds of fibers, metals, plastic and glass.

“CRRA, for example, provides no-cost recycling to 88 cities and towns, but moving materials out of the recycling system would deprive us of revenue we need to continue this program and offer additional services such as electronics recycling for which there is a large and growing demand.

“This bill will not significantly help the state meet its ambitious recycling goals. Although it may well reduce litter of beverage containers, a serious concern, we believe the cost to the state’s recycling performance would be too high.

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“Fortunately, an option exists that will allow for both the Bottle Bill expansion and continued support of recycling.

“CRRA proposes amending the bill to ensure that publicly owned recycling facilities are eligible to redeem and process deposit containers. Under CRRA’s proposal, publicly owned recycling facilities would be able to redeem deposit containers collected in the curbside and drop-off system and receive the standard handling fee which is paid to other container processors. Receipt of this handling fee – which SB 1289 would raise to 2 or 3 cents per container (depending on type) from the present 1.5 cents – would recognize CRRA’s recycling of these containers and help make up for the revenue which municipal recycling programs would lose due to the expansion of the bottle bill.

“With this amendment, the residents and municipalities of Connecticut can maintain the curbside and drop-off programs allowing for convenient, effective and efficient recycling and still have the litter reduction benefits of the container deposit. Additionally, residents who prefer the convenience of recycling through their curbside or drop-off programs, instead of the cumbersome process of returning containers to supermarket reverse-vending machines, will be providing a benefit to their municipal recycling programs instead of donating their nickels to the bottlers and distributors. Over the years, CRRA has recycled hundreds of millions of deposit bottles and containers that have been turned into new products. Isn’t it only fair that the taxpayer-owned recycling facilities already accepting deposit containers receive the standard handling fee?

“We respectfully suggest that this is a win-win-win for the environment, the taxpayers and our municipal and state governments and strongly urge your support.”

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA’s four solid waste projects serve 118 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through its Visitors Center and Trash Museum in Hartford and Children’s Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>.