



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### *BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL*

**S.237B – May**

**(Currently Not Same As)**

**A.6353 – Glick**

**Description:** Modernizes New York State’s Returnable Container Law by covering additional popular beverage containers, increasing the deposit to 10 cents, increasing the handling fee, and expanding access to bottle redemption.

#### **Justification**

Enacted in 1982, New York State’s Returnable Container Law (aka “the Bottle Bill”) stands as one of the State’s most successful and impactful environmental laws, helping to reduce litter by 70%, recycle billions of beverage containers, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs. After over 40 years, it’s time to expand and modernize the Bottle Bill to reflect changing markets and adjust for inflation.

Since the Bottle Bill was enacted, many types of beverages have grown in popularity. To reflect these changes and to recycle more beverage containers in use today, this legislation includes a more inclusive list of beverages with a deposit, adding wine, liquor, distilled spirit coolers, cider, wine products, noncarbonated soft drinks, noncarbonated fruit and vegetable juices, coffee and tea beverages, carbonated water, and carbonated fruit beverages.

Glass collected through curbside recycling programs is frequently heavily contaminated with paper, cardboard, and other recyclables, which makes recovery more difficult and decreases the value of recycled glass. Including a deposit on wine, liquor, and other glass beverage containers will provide significant financial relief to municipal recycling programs, while helping to ensure that glass bottles are actually recycled.

The bill increases the deposit to 10 cents, which will yield higher return and recycling rates. Michigan’s 10-cent deposit has produced a return rate of 96% (New York’s return rate in 2015 was 65%). The bill also increases public access to redemption centers, which is critical for low-income individuals in disadvantaged communities. CCE urges the legislature to pass this important legislation.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS**  
**(S.237B / A.6353) – Bigger Better Bottle Bill**

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*CCE 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*

April 2024