

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information: Ryan Thoresen Carson, 508 649-9528, rcarson@nypirg.org

OVER 300 NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY GROUPS, REDEMPTION CENTERS, CANNERS, AND FAITH GROUPS, CALL ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO MODERNIZE NY'S BOTTLE BILL

GROUPS CALL FOR A "BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL"

(Albany, N.Y.) Hundreds of environmental, civic, and social justice organizations today called on Governor Hochul to modernize New York's landmark recycling law, commonly known as the "Bottle Bill." Advocates representing over 300 New York organizations and businesses gathered at the Capitol to highlight the successes of the four-decade-old law and to urge that it be expanded as part of the state's efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling, and boost support for municipal recycling and environmental justice programs.

The law, which went into effect in 1983, officially known as the New York State Returnable Container Act, requires a 5-cent refundable deposit to be placed on covered beverage containers, such as beer, soda, and water containers. The law requires retailers who sell covered beverages to accept returns of empty containers for the products they sell and then refund those deposits. The law also mandates that beverage distributors pay retailers a handling fee for the cost of collecting empty containers. The Bottle Bill was last expanded more than a decade ago to include water bottles.

Groups that signed the letter and participated in the rally include: **NYPIRG, Environmental Advocates, Beyond Plastics, League of Women Voters of New York State, Sure We Can, Riverkeeper, and the Empire State Redemption Association.** Also joining the event were New York City waste pickers ("canners") who spoke to their experiences earning vital income through the Bottle Bill. The groups argued that after four-decades of success, the time to increase New York's recycling rates, provide support for municipal recycling programs, and boost redemption access in underserved communities is now. They urged the governor to include the modernization plan as part of her upcoming 2023-24 Executive Budget.

Specifically, the groups called for two changes to modernize the Bottle Bill:

Expand the types and number of beverage containers covered by the Bottle Bill. Other states from Maine to Hawaii include a diverse range of non-carbonated beverages, wine, and liquor to great success. California updated its Bottle Bill earlier this year to include more types of containers.

Increase the amount of the deposit to a dime and direct a portion of the additional revenues collected by the state to ensure better compliance and enhance access to redemption entities in

currently underserved communities. States like Connecticut and Oregon that have increased their deposit to a dime have seen increases in recycling and container redemption rates. Connecticut passed a law increasing the state's deposit to ten cents last year. New York's nickel deposit has remained unchanged for 40 years.

Over its 40-year history, the advocates say, New York's Bottle Bill has proven highly effective at reducing litter and increasing recycling rates. In 2020, New York's redemption rate was at 64%. The Bottle Bill reduces roadside container litter by 70%, and in 2020, 5.5 billion containers were recycled in the state. However, advocates say, it's time to modernize the law for a new era.

Earlier this year in her State of the State address, Governor Hochul stressed that New York is in a waste crisis. During the legislative session, Assemblymember Englebright and Senator May introduced the modernized Bigger Better Bottle Bill, which would expand the types and number of beverage containers covered by the law, and increase the deposit to a dime. These actions are critical to increase New York's

underserved communities. A recent report by ReLoop found that New York's expanded bottle deposit program would likely result in an increase in recycling up to 90%, add \$852 million to the state economy, and save the state's municipalities \$70.9 in waste disposal costs.

Ryan Thoresen Carson, NYPIRG Bottle Bill 40 Campaign Coordinator said, "New York has come a long way since 1983 – Ronald Reagan was President, Governor Mario Cuomo was in his first year, the New York Islanders won a fourth straight Stanley Cup, no one heard of the Internet, and The Police topped the music charts (with "Every Breath You Take"). That year was the first of the state's Bottle Bill and its nickel deposit. Since then water bottles have been added to the list of covered beverage containers (with beer and soda), but sports drinks and other flavored beverages are not. After 40 years, the law needs to be modernized to cover all non-dairy beverages and the deposit needs a boost to a dime. We urge Governor Hochul to take the lead on this important anti-litter and pro-recycling measure."

Ryan Castalia, Executive Director of Sure We Can, said, "The Bottle Bill is an engine for environmental justice. For decades, canners, many of whom are among New York's most marginalized, have been driving the state's most effective recycling system, as their compensation has lagged woefully behind the cost of living. It's time they get the raise they deserve."

Kate Kurera, Deputy Director of Environmental Advocates NY said "New York's bottle bill has been one of the most sensible and effective environmental policies in the history of New York. But for it to continue to be effective at preventing litter and reducing our solid waste burden, we need to make sure it is more up-to-date with expanded categories of returnables and increased deposits. We hope the Governor and Legislature make this a priority in the upcoming year. Now is the time to act."

Rene del Carmen, former canner and Sure We Can Recycling Manager, said, "The Bottle Bill has the power to save people in very difficult situations, and to resolve problems of waste in the world. It can inspire people to recycle and to help our environment and shared world."

Jose Marin, full-time canner and Sure We Can Executive Board member, said, “It’s more difficult to buy food and necessities than it was before. Today, we have to work harder and recycle double the amount to buy the same things. That’s why we’re asking to raise the deposit—because we need it. We do our part. We hope you’ll hear us, and remember—recycling without recyclers is garbage.”

Jeremy Cherson, Senior Manager of Government Affairs for Riverkeeper said, “Now is the time for Governor Hochul and the legislature to seize the opportunity and modernize New York’s Bottle Bill. The broad support for the environmental bond act demonstrates that protecting the environment is a high priority for New Yorkers. Increasing the number of bottles covered and the value of their return will ensure fewer plastic bottles end up polluting waterways and shorelines across New York. Each year, plastic bottles are the second most common item found at shorelines during the annual Riverkeeper Sweep. On the 40th anniversary of the original bottle bill, Riverkeeper strongly urges Governor Hochul to include a bigger, better bottle bill in the Executive Budget next session.”

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State said, “New Yorkers make over 4.5 pounds of trash per person, per day. The Bottle Bill in New York State is one of the most effective recycling and litter prevention programs, but after 40 years it’s time for an update. Modernizing this bill to curb plastic pollution in New York State would offer social, economic, and environmental benefits; from reducing projected greenhouse gas emissions to the creation of thousands of jobs. The League of Women Voters of New York State urges legislators to act now to modernize a bill that will help us manage our current waste crisis in a direct and achievable way.”

Martin Naro, President of the Empire State Redemption Association, said, “The science and data are clear - the Bottle Bill has resulted in the most effective recycling program in modern history. Out of the inception of the NYS Bottle Bill in 1983, the Redemption industry was born. The Redemption Industry is estimated to employ over 15,000 New Yorkers and provides hundreds of thousands of people with an honest means of direct and supplemental income. I represent the voice of thousands when I strongly urge Governor Hochul to do what is right for the people and businesses of her state - expand Bottle Bill legislation, and allow our state's best recyclers to receive the necessary raise they need to continue their great work. Hundreds of Redemption Centers are on the verge of going out of business. Minimum wage increases and skyrocketing inflation are suffocating the people and redemption centers that are the backbone of NYS's most effective recycling program. Increasing the deposit of containers to 10 cents and the handling fee to 6 cents is absolutely necessary for the survival of the NYS Redemption Industry.”

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SUPPORT MODERNIZING THE NEW YORK STATE BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW

November 21, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul
Executive Chamber
Capitol Building
Albany, N.Y. 12234

Re: Modernizing New York’s Returnable Container Act (“Bottle Bill”) & Increase Redemption Rates to 90%

Dear Governor Kathy Hochul,

The undersigned organizations and businesses write to express our strong support to modernize New York’s Returnable Container Act,¹ commonly known as the ‘Bottle Bill.’ It’s time to update the law to include popular non-carbonated beverages, wine, spirits, and hard cider. Expanding the type of beverages in the Bottle Bill deposit program will result in billions of bottles being diverted from landfills and incinerators. A recent national report found that redemption rates are estimated to increase up to 90%² if the expansion of beverage types is coupled with an increase of the redeemable deposit value to a dime.

Modernizing the Bottle Bill is an economic and environmental justice issue. NY must make this successful program more convenient, effective, and equitable for all New Yorkers. An expanded Bottle Bill will further reduce pollution, especially plastic pollution, all while lifting up workers in the recycling and redemption industry. States with a bottle deposit are 46% more likely to recycle PET plastic bottles than states without.³ An expanded Bottle Bill stands to increase New York’s recycling rate for covered materials by over 20%, and to generate between \$170 million and \$350 million in additional revenue annually to the state.⁴ Crucially, expansion will provide badly needed funding for communities that face low redemption rates due to inadequate access to retailers and redemption centers, as well as strengthen infrastructure to make participation in the system easier for consumers, collectors, and businesses.

Enacted in 1983, the ‘Bottle Bill’ requires a nickel refundable deposit on eligible beverage containers to encourage their return for recycling, which reduces litter and waste. Modernization of the 40-year-old Bottle Bill will further enhance litter control (most notably in underserved lower-income communities), stimulate recycling efforts, and encourage the use of refillable containers. States with Bottle Bills have a much higher recycling rate than states without.

¹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, “New York’s Bottle Bill,” <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8500.html>.

² ReLoop Platform, “Reimagining the Bottle Bill,” <https://bottlebillreimagined.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Reimagining-the-Bottle-Bill-FINAL-JUNE-2022.pdf>.

³ Container Recycling Institute, “Container Deposits: The Rockstars of Recycling,” <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Bills/H.175/Witness%20Documents/H.175~Susan%20Collins~Container%20Deposit%20Handout~2-24-2021.pdf>.

⁴ ReLoop Platform, “Reimagining the Bottle Bill,” <https://bottlebillreimagined.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Reimagining-the-Bottle-Bill-FINAL-JUNE-2022.pdf>.

Ahead of the program's 40th anniversary, New York's redemption system is lagging behind other programs nationwide in its achievement of critical waste diversion. We need to modernize this effective program for the next 40 years so that we put an end to bottle litter and waste and grow New York's "circular economy." We urge you to include a bill to modernize, improve, and expand the Bottle Bill in your proposed FY 2023-2024 Executive Budget.

As you know, the Bottle Bill has achieved its original goals. The Bottle Bill has:

- Reduced litter in communities, waterways, and along beaches;
- Increased recycling rates; and
- Contributed to a funding stream for important environmental programs.

There are two important steps needed to modernize the law:

Expand the number of beverage containers covered by the Bottle Bill. New York would not be the first state to include non-carbonated beverages, wine, and liquor. Maine's Bottle Deposit Law includes all containers covered in New York's existing Bottle Bill plus wine, spirits, hard cider, and most non-carbonated beverages. Maine has a 5-cent deposit for all beverages, except wine and liquor, which have a 15-cent deposit. Other states with Bottle Deposit Laws that include non-carbonated beverages include Connecticut, California, and Oregon.⁵

Increase the amount of the deposit to a dime. The impact of the nickel deposit that was approved in 1982 has eroded over time. A mere inflation update would likely make that deposit nearly *fifteen cents*.⁶ To ensure that those who wish to redeem their deposits can easily do so, we need a portion of the additional revenues collected by the state to be used to ensure better compliance and enhance access to redemption entities. Oregon has already increased deposits on beverage containers to 10 cents, leading to an immediate increase in recycling redemption rates.⁷

There are many reasons to support the above measures, but three are most important:

First, expanding the Bottle Bill increases New York's recycling rates and reduces litter. Over its 40-year history, New York's Bottle Bill has been the state's most effective recycling and litter prevention program.⁸ According to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Bottle Bill reduces roadside container litter by 70%, and in 2020, 5.5 billion containers were recycled.⁹ Further, litter is not adequately cleaned up as often in low-income neighborhoods as in more affluent neighborhoods. Enhancing the Bottle Bill will reduce litter across the board, including in underserved neighborhoods. Lastly, waste reduction merits priority before recycling

⁵ National Coalition of State Legislatures, "State Beverage Container Deposit Laws," March 13, 2020. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/state-beverage-container-laws.aspx>.

⁶ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Inflation Calculator, https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm.

⁷ Container Recycling Institute, "Redemption Rates of and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs," 2021.

⁸ New York State Association of Counties, "Bottle Bill White Paper," June 2016, p.1, <http://www.nysac.org/files/NYSAC%20Bottle%20Bill%20White%20Paper.pdf>

⁹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York's Bottle Bill, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8500.html>

in the waste management hierarchy.¹⁰ Expansion of the Bottle Bill could help incentivize the use of refillable containers since manufacturers are required to handle used single-use containers.¹¹

Second, expanding the Bottle Bill reduces municipalities' waste burden and their solid waste disposal expenses. Municipal curbside programs and bottle deposit programs are more effective together and create a comprehensive approach to recycling. They also stop the practice of dumping tons and tons of bottles into local landfills, some of which are at or near capacity. In a report prepared by DSM Environmental Services Inc. for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, a bottle bill modernization was estimated to reduce costs for Massachusetts municipalities, even after netting out potential lost revenue.¹² Municipal recycling programs are particularly struggling with glass breaking in their recycling streams, making the rest of the materials much more difficult to recycle. Enhancing the Bottle Bill would take additional glass bottles out of curbside bins. Even when recyclable materials are not contaminated by broken glass, the costs of recycling containers that are not covered under the state's Bottle Bill are too high for many municipalities. For example, the costs associated with collecting and processing PET plastic bottles and glass per ton are higher than revenues per ton for scrap material.¹³

Third, modernization stimulates job creation and eases consumer access. Adding containers and a higher deposit and handling fee will create new jobs and benefit redemption center workers. Redemption center workers have not seen a raise from the recycling handling fee since 2009, despite increased expenses for such workers due to inflation. And, because of a lack of state support, many redemption centers are struggling to stay open. It will also be a boon to the thousands of often poor, immigrant, elderly, or homeless "canners" that clean up empty containers from the streets, and have driven the efficacy of the redemption program for 40 years. Investing a portion of the additional revenues collected by the state to ensure better and more uniform compliance and expanded access to redemption opportunities will enhance equity and allow currently underserved communities to more fully benefit from this historically effective law.

In your 2022 State of the State Address, you offered support for the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Globally, EPR systems utilize container deposit programs in order to ensure a circular recycling approach to reduce container waste. During the 2022 Legislative Session, Assemblymember Steve Englebright and Senator Rachel May have introduced the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (A. 10184/ S. 9164, of 2022) to complement an EPR approach to the state's ongoing waste crisis.

We urge your support for this important environmental and economic justice initiative. Including the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill in your FY 2023-2024 Executive Budget will bolster the state's efforts to reduce litter, enhance recycling, create jobs, lift up canners in disadvantaged communities, expand equity, and ease consumer participation.

¹⁰ New York State Department of Environmental Protection, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8502.html>

¹¹ Container Recycling Institute, <https://www.container-recycling.org/index.php/53-facts-a-statistics/glass/428-the-decline-of-refillable-beverage-bottles-in-the-us>.

¹² DSM Environmental Services, Inc for Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, "Analysis of the Impact of an Expanded Bottle Bill on Municipal Refuse and Recycling Costs and Revenues – FINAL LETTER REPORT": July 21, 2009.

¹³ Container Recycling Institute, "Cost of Curbside Recycling for Beverage Containers," May 31, 2018, <https://www.container-recycling.org/images/stories/PDF/Fullnetrecyclingcostcurbside10-18-18%20V2.pdf>.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure a cleaner environment.

Sincerely,

12th Man Bottle and Can	Bottles For The Brave
196 Bottle Return	Brix Bulk Items
350 Brooklyn	Bronx Climate Justice North
350 NYC	Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society
A&A Redemption Center, Inc.	Bronx River Alliance
Abbott Bottle Return Inc.	Brookhaven Landfill Action & Remediation Group
ABOHAR INC	Broome Tioga Green Party
ACES (Aurorans for Climate and Environmental Sense)	Bucks for Bottles
Addisleigh Park Civic Organization	Buffalo's Best Bottle and Can Redemption Center
Advocates for Springfield	Cafeteria Culture
Albion Redemption Center	Camden Cans & Bottle Return
All Deposit of Long Island	Campaign for Renewable Energy
All Our Energy	Can & Bottler Return
All People's Garden Inc.	Can Stop Redemption Center and Groceries, Inc.
All Souls Peace & Justice	Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition
Allegany Beverage & Redemption	Carroll Gardens Association, Inc
Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)	Cash for Cans Express Corp.
American Littoral Society	Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga Justice & Peace Ministry
Amir Holdings Inc.	CBH Global Development and Design
Arc Redemption Inc.	Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Astoria Beer Depot	Center for Justice & Democracy
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism	CGA
Bag O Nickels Redemption	Chilana Inc.
Bash the Trash Environmental Arts LLC	Church Women United in New York State
BC Can and Bottle Return	Citizen Action of New York
Bedford 2030	Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Belgoods LLC	CK Bottles4Bucks, LLC
Belgoods Redemption	Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
Beverage Mart	
Beyond Plastics	
Big Reuse	
Bodow Recycling Inc.	
Bottle City NYC	
BottleDrop Redemption Center	

Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena
Coeymans
Clean Air Coalition of WNY
Clean+Healthy
Coastal Research & Education Society of
Long Island, Inc.
Community Advocates for a Sustainable
Environment
Community Beverage
Community Church of New York
Compost International
Concerned Citizens of Danby
Concerned Citizens of Wyandanch Civic
Association Inc
Creating Change Redemption Center
Culver Narrows Thrifty Bev.
Cushman Cans
D&P Recycle Inc
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Development Resource Group
DIVRAJ INC
Don't Trash the Catskills
Drawdown NYC
Dutchess County Progressive Action
Alliance
Earth & Me, LLC
Earthbilt
Earthjustice
East Side Enterprise Inc
Eastern Long Island Chapter Surfrider
Foundation
ECO Friendly
El Puente
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Elramida Holding inc.
Empire Stat Consumer Project
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Action Coalition
Environmental Advocates NY
Environmental Recycling

Environmental Stewardship Committee -
New York Society for Ethical Culture
Erie Blvd W Returns LLC
Evttek
Exchange Redemption, Inc
Express Bottle Return
EZPZ
Federated Conservationists of Westchester
County
Fifth Avenue Committee
Flair Beverages Corp.
Food & Water Watch
Foodscraps360.com, LLC
For the Many
For Your Convenience
Fossil Free Tompkins
Frye Road Redemption Center
Fultonville Redemption Center
GAIA
Gard Recycling, Inc
Grassroots Environmental Education
Green Bottle Redemption Center
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Inside and Out
Green Ossining
Green Party of Nassau County
Green Party of New York
Green Sanctuary Team at Albany UU
GreeningUSA
Gursharan INC
HabitatMap
HARNOOR INC
HARPRIYA INC
Hazon
HealthyPlanet
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association
Honeywell Redemption Center
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Hudson Valley Green Party
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition

Indivisible Mohawk Valley Climate Crisis Working Group
Invest Redemption Group, LLC
Ithaca-SHIP.org
Jamaica Beverage Center LLC
Jamaica redemption Center LLC
Jamesville Positive Action Committee (JAMPAC)
JASNOOR INC
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
JK's Redemption Center
JR Redemption Center Corp.
JT Bottle Redemption
Laudato Si Ministry
League of Women Voters of Cortland County
League of Women Voters of New York State
Little Lakes Sustainability Network
Long Island Bottles and Cans Inc
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Lower East Side Ecology Center
Mahuana Inc
Mamaki
Mammoth Recycling LLC
McLean Beverage
Mega Beverage Redemption Center Inc
Melissa Carlson, Architecture
Metro N.Y. Catholic Climate Movement
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Mohawk Redemption Center
Mothers Out Front Dutchess County
Mothers Out Front-ADK Team
MT Returnables
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
Neighborhood Redemption Center, inc
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow
New Paltz Bottles for Change
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
New York City Friends of Clearwater

New York Climate Action Group
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
New York Solar Energy Society
New Yorkers for Clean Power
Newburgh Clean Water Project
Niagara Frontier Surfrider Foundation Chapter
Niagara Health Quality Coalition
Nickels Redemption Center Inc.
Nickleback Bottle Return
North American Climate, conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North Bronx Racial Justice
North Country Earth Action
North Fork Environmental Council
North Shore Audubon Society
North Star Fund
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northern Westchester Mothers Out Front
Nuclear Information and Resource Service ("for a nuclear-free, carbon-free world")
NY Buddhist Climate Action Network
NYC H2O
NYenvironcom
Occupy Bergen County
Oneonta Redemption Center
Onondaga Audubon
Operation SPLASH
Orange RAPP
Palm Springs Golf
Papa Cans Bottle Return
Park Slope Neighbors
Parks & Trails New York
Partners in Nutrition LLC

PAUSE - People of Albany United for Safe Energy
Peace Action Bay Ridge
Peacemakers of Schoharie County
People for a Healthy Environment
Peoples Climate Movement - NY
PJIC Office of Sisters of Charity of New York
Pound Ridge Organics
Pratt Envirolutions
Pratt institute Department of Math & Science
Pratt Institute Student Government Association
Pritej Inc
Protect the Adirondacks!
Protecting Our Waters
Putnam Progressives
Queens Climate Project
Quick & Easy Bottle Returns, Inc.
R & R Bottle and Can Redemption Center Inc
Rabideau Redemption.
Radiant Realm
RAFT - Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga
RAJPREET INC
Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Teachers Association
Recycle For Education
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
Ridge Nickelback
Righi Redemption Centers LLC
RISE (Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability & Equity)
Riverkeeper
Riverside Salem Church (UCC/ DoC)
RLS Management Solutions LLC
Roseadon Enterprises Inc

Sacred River Healing
Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
Sane Energy Project
SASD
Save The Great South Bay
Schenectady Neighbors for Peace
Seatuck Environmental Association
Seneca Lake Guardian
SHARAN INC
Shut Down Indian Point NOW!
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Solarize Albany
Solidarity Committee--Capital District
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training Inc. (SAFEST)
South Beach Civic Association
South Bronx Unite
South Shore Audubon Society
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Students Against a Vanishing Environment
SUKHRAJ INC
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force
Sure We Can
Surfrider Foundation Eastern Long Island Chapter
Surfrider Foundation New York City
Sustainable Finger Lakes
Sustainable Putnam
Sustainable Saratoga
Sustainable Warwick
Syracuse Cultural Workers

Syracuse Peace Council
Syracuse University, Dept. of
Communication & Rhetorical Studies
T.H.R.I.V.E.
TEJPAUL INC
The Black Institute
The Climate Reality Project, Western New
York Chapter
The Environmental Recycling of NY
The People's Own Organic Power Project
The Redeemer Bottle and Can Redemption
Center
The SEEDS Chapter of Hunter College
The Story of Stuff Project
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological
Dialogue at Iona University
Tompkins County Climate Protection
Initiative
Town of Ithaca Conservation Board
TREEage
Ulster Activists

UNCAGED
United Climate Action Network
United for Action
Upper WestSide Recycling
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green
Sanctuary
Vee Recycling Inc.
Vestal Beverage & Redemption Center
Veterans For Climate Justice
Veterans For Peace - NYC Chapter 34
Vetrone's Redemption Center
Watervliet Huddle
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Weather Medic Inc
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions
Western New York Environmental Alliance
Western NY Drilling Defense
Zero Waste Capital District
Zero Waste Columbia
Zero Waste Ithaca

United For Clean Energy
United Redemption Inc
Upper Green Side

Modernizing New York's Bottle Bill



When New York enacted the New York State Returnable Container Act (known as the “Bottle Bill”) in 1982, it was one of the first in the country. Today, the Empire State has an opportunity to address severe environmental challenges more effectively by adopting an even better and truly modern bottle bill. Implementing ten high-performance principles for modernizing deposit return systems (DRS) would go further.

BENEFITS DELIVERED BY MODERNIZED DRS

- ENVIRONMENTAL
- ECONOMIC
- SOCIAL

+ SAVES MILLIONS FOR NY TAXPAYERS & CITIES/TOWNS

NEW RESEARCH ON NEW YORK SHOWS THE IMPACT:

331,900
METRIC TONS OF CO₂

reduced annually in reduced greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of 72,000 cars off New York roads each year¹

5.4
BILLION

additional beverage containers recycled each year, yielding 258,000 more tons of high-value material annually, with 167,000 tons in New York City alone

\$70.9+
MILLION IN SAVINGS

for New York cities and towns by redirecting recyclables away from costly curbside collection systems

\$852
MILLION

added to New York's economy annually in Gross Value Added (GVA)³

85%
LITTER REDUCTION

of beverage containers², creating far more livable communities—rural, urban, and suburban— in the Empire State

10,000
TOTAL JOBS

that bring additional economic benefits through taxes and spending by these workers

HOW SHOULD A MODERN DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM WORK?

Accessible & Accountable

Industry Financed

Well Managed & Regulated

Increases access for consumers

with **13,648 projected locations (7,462 in NYC alone)** to return containers so redemption becomes part of a New Yorker's daily routine

Funded by producers

so **New York consumers or their cities and towns do not pay** for the management of these materials

Government plays an oversight and enforcement role

to ensure performance standards are met by producers and retailers and **enforce a 90% collection target in New York**

Includes more beverages containers

so would remove a significant proportion of glass and other containers from curbside recycling that are costly and difficult to manage

Creates efficiencies

by **establishing clear standards, oversight, and enforcement** that optimize performance and reduce fraud

64% to 90% jump

in **redemption rate** for containers included in New York's deposit return system

Producers will pay

\$454 million annually - not New York municipalities and consumers, as they do now

¹ Calculated at: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>
² "National Litter Study", Keep America Beautiful. 2021 <https://kab.org/litter-study/>.
³ Gross value added (GVA) is an economic productivity metric that measures the contribution of the DRS to the state.