



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: June 1, 2021

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Legislators, Advocates Call for Action on Solid Waste: *Beverage Industry Lobbying Threatens Progress*

House members will stand together this Wednesday morning with Sen. Christine Cohen and community advocates from across Connecticut to call on Senate members to support S.B. 1037 (aka the CT Bottle Bill). This legislation would modernize our redemption system by significantly increasing public access to convenient recycling options for bottles and cans, putting money towards minority owned redemption centers and saving towns millions on litter removal and recycling.

Despite ongoing efforts by Environment Committee leadership to compromise and build support for this important bill, beverage industry lobbyists have been working to run out the clock on the bottle bill once again. As a result, the bill is stalled in the Senate and could die due to legislative inaction. The Connecticut bottle bill works structurally. *The program delivered high rates of redemption with a five cents deposit when first enacted and the minimum wage was around three dollars per hour. Today, the redemption rates have declined due to simple economics.*

Municipalities are facing skyrocketing recycling and solid waste costs, litter from single-serve beverage containers is a chronic problem (especially in densely populated cities and shoreline tourist areas), yet, taxpayers are being forced to foot the bill to clean up wasteful consumer packaging like bottles and cans, which litter our communities and open spaces. For these reasons, the [CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management](#) (a policy group made up of municipal leaders) recommended legislative updates to the bottle bill to include juices, teas, sports drinks and liquor nips, raise the handling fees on covered containers, and increase deposit from \$.05 to .10-cents on covered containers. Municipal officials recognize the critical role the bottle bill plays in controlling litter in our State.

WHO: CGA Environment Committee Chairs (State Senator Christine Cohen, State Rep. Joe Gresko), bottle bill co-sponsors in the House and Senate, environmental justice and consumer advocates, members of the public

WHAT: Press conference in support of S.B. 1037

WHERE: Capitol Building – 210 Capitol Ave., South Capitol Steps

WHEN: Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 10:00am

WHY: To call on CT Senate members to pass modernize Connecticut’s Bottle Bill