



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

March 15, 2013

Richard K. Sullivan Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

As a long-time supporter of legislation to update the Bottle Bill, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to increase the handling fee for bottles, from 2.25 cents to 3.25 cents per container. The proposed revision to Provisions for Recycling of Beverage Containers, 301 CMR 4.05 (4), is long overdue and I encourage you to adopt this amendment.

Expanding the bottle bill is good for our environment. Recycling is the easiest and simplest way to make our cities greener, and the Bottle Bill has been a recycling success story. More than 30 billion containers have been removed from the waste stream and committed to recycling. Our current redemption law is now decades out of date. When the Bottle Bill was enacted in 1982, no one could have predicted how popular bottled water, juices and other sports drinks would become. Cities and towns are spending taxpayer dollars to clean-up unredeemable bottles that are scattered throughout our neighborhoods and parks. Approximately one billion of these containers become litter or trash each year in Massachusetts – that's enough to fill Fenway Park past the bleachers.

To compound the problem, the current handling fee has been in place since 1991. This has forced our redemption centers and other handlers to make due with the same pay for more than 20 years. As a result, approximately half of the redemption centers have been put out of business over the past 10 years. Every day we do not take action, we risk losing more businesses and more jobs in our communities. By increasing the handling fee, we will save existing jobs and create new ones.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to consider this regulatory update. This proposal is an important economic driver for the Commonwealth and will also produce significant environmental benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or you may also reach Jennifer Cruickshank in my Office of Intergovernmental Relations at (617) 635-4478. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston