

THE BOTTLE LAW IS UNDER ATTACK WE NEED YOUR HELP

Contact your legislators now to

1. **OPPOSE SB 996**, An Act Establishing a Bottle Recycling Fee In Lieu of a Refundable Deposit, and
2. **SUPPORT HB 5618**, An Act Concerning an Increase in the Handling Fee for Bottle Redemption Centers.

STATUS: Both bills have been reported favorably out of the Environment Committee and are on the respective chambers' calendars: SB 996, Cal. #212; HB 5618, Cal. #278. SB 996 was referred to the **Finance Committee** and HB 5618 may be referred soon.

SB 996 would put a nonrefundable 4-cent tax on all carbonated and most noncarbonated beverage containers with the funds going into 4 separate accounts, including half of the funds going into the State's General Fund. **SAY NO TO A BOTTLE TAX!**

HB 5618 would increase the handling fee paid by the distributors to the stores and redemption centers for handling the returns. This fee has not been increased in the 37 years the bottle law has been in effect. **SAY YES TO A MODERNIZED BOTTLE BILL!**

Note: HB 5618 may be amended to expand the Bottle Law to include additional beverage containers such as teas, sports drinks and juices – an effort the LWV has supported in the past.

Talking points:

- SB 996 would cost tax payers an estimated \$57 million per year.
- SB 996 would eliminate 500-600 container redemption jobs.
- SB 996 would increase litter-related costs by up to \$2 million annually.
- SB 996 would decrease the beverage container recycling rate. The Bottle Law has been a success in recycling beverage containers, with about a 50% return rate.

The LWV CT has joined a Coalition to oppose SB 996. "Coalition Memorandum"
<http://lwvnet.org/lwv/ct/connecticut/files/CTBottleBillCoalitionMemo2017-04.pdf>

Also, see www.cga.ct.gov for March 13, 2017, public hearing testimony, OLR report, environmental committee vote, status of bills, names of finance committee members.

Contact your legislators to "SAY YES TO A MODERNIZED BOTTLE BILL!"