June 12, 2017

The Honorable Michael Barrett
The Honorable Thomas Golden
Chairpersons
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1865

Dear Chairmen Barrett, Golden & Members of the Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy:

The Glass, Molders, Pottery, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC
(GMP) opposes Senate Bill 1865, which would repeal the state’s bottle bill recycling program, and
institute a 1-cent non-refundable tax on containers to support statewide recycling. GMP opposes repeal
of the Massachusetts bottle bill program.

We support the position of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) in that regard. GPI is the North American
trade association for glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment
and transport to the industry. Collectively, the industry directly employs 18,000 Americans in glass
container manufacturing and related recycling industries. The majority of them are members of our
union.

When glass plants can increase the levels of recycled glass as part of the overall batch mix, they can
reduce furnace temperatures, resulting in reduced energy use and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The
glass and other beverage containers recovered through the Massachusetts program is of high
quality, and in high demand by the glass container and other manufacturing industries. Our union
members include workers in Massachusetts. They are employed at Ardagh Glass, manufacturing millions
of glass bottles daily at their plant in Milford, where they produce glass bottles using over 90% recycled
glass.

GPI estimates that 65%-80% of recycled glass used in the glass container manufacturing process is
sourced from the 10 states with bottle bill recycling programs. Up to 50% of the glass collected in a
residential, single stream manner, will be sent to landfills for disposal, due to contamination and sorting
challenges at the materials recovery facility.

Bottle bill recycling programs achieve on average, much higher recovery rates for covered beverages.
Redemption of containers within Massachusetts’ program is estimated at above 60%, well above the
national average for beverage container recycling. Demand for quality, recycled glass by the glass container and other manufacturers across the country serve as strong, available and ready markets. A prime reason for the success of bottle bill recycling programs is that recovered containers are kept separate from other recyclables, drastically reducing contamination and providing the best opportunity to turn them into a manufactured product. As American workers in this state and all across the country, we are proud to play a role in that effort!

Very truly yours,

Bruce R. Smith
International President

BRS:clc