



April 30, 2019

The Honorable John Fanfara
The Honorable Jason Rojas
Co-Chairmen

Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 7294

Dear Chairman Fanfara and Chairman Rojas:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), **I offer the following testimony in strong support for House Bill 7294**, which would enhance and strengthen Connecticut's bottle bill recycling program, by increasing the consumer incentive to redeem covered containers, and better supporting the redemption center owners and their operations.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment and transport to the industry. Collectively, the industry directly employs 16,000 Americans in glass container manufacturing and related recycling industries.

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 Connecticut program is of high quality, and in high demand by the glass container and other manufacturing industries.** Collectively, the beverage container deposit program supports thousands of jobs at in-state redemption centers and related recycling businesses.

GPI member companies have a strong presence in Connecticut. Strategic Materials, Inc. operates a glass recycling facility in South Windsor, and processes much of the glass beverage containers recovered through the program. The glass container and recycling industry is also supported by the Emhart Glass Research Center located in Windsor, and TOMRA's facility in Shelton, which collects beverage containers through its extensive capital infrastructure network.

Bottle bill recycling programs achieve on average, much higher recovery rates for covered beverages. Demand for quality, recycled glass by the glass container and other manufacturers across the country are very strong, with available and ready markets.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony to House Bill 7294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph J. Cattaneo".

Joseph J. Cattaneo
President