



February 9, 2015

The Honorable Brad Zaun
Iowa State Senate
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Testimony in Opposition to Iowa Senate File 72

Dear Senator Zaun:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), I am offering the following testimony in opposition to Senate File 72, which would remove covered wine containers from the state's beverage container recycling refund program, aka "bottle bill".

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 18,000 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. This is also true of other packaging and manufacturing industries. For glass, one ton of carbon dioxide is reduced for every six tons of recycled container glass used in the manufacturing process. Energy use at the glass plants also drops about 2-3% for every 10% recycled glass used in the manufacturing process.

GPI estimates that 65%-80% of recycled glass used in the glass container manufacturing process is sourced from Iowa and the 9 additional states with beverage container recycling refund programs. Demand for Iowa's quality recycled glass by the glass container and other manufacturers across the country is very strong, with available and ready markets.

Iowa's beverage container recycling refund program is also among the most successful in the nation, averaging a recovery rate of 86%. Removal of any existing beverage container type from the program would not only work to decrease the overall recovery rate, but may competitively disadvantage other beverage container packaging, currently included in the recovery program.

A prime reason for the success of these programs is that collected containers are

kept separate from other recyclables, drastically reducing contamination and providing them the best opportunity to return to a manufactured product.

GPI would like to thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our comments to your legislation. Please consider GPI and its member companies a resource and advocate for recycling related issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Bragg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Lynn M. Bragg
President