



Multi-State Meeting - Summer 2017

Northeast Protective League Activity

Massachusetts: GPI, in coordination with in-state member companies, GMP-IU leadership, and other stakeholders, remain strongly opposed to legislative efforts to repeal the state's bottle bill program. Senate Bill 1865, currently under consideration, would repeal the state's bottle bill recycling program, and institute a 1-cent non-refundable tax on containers.

Supporters of the bottle bill met with key legislators and staff throughout the year to emphasize the importance of the bottle bill and the recycled glass it provides to the Ardagh plant in Milford, which runs on an average of over 90% recycled glass. In addition to the Milford plant, the bottle bill program supports beverage container redemption centers, along with other manufacturing and recycling facilities. We anticipate the legislature will continue to consider Senate Bill 1865 this fall when they return from recess.

Connecticut: Similar to Massachusetts, Connecticut also considered repealing their bottle bill program earlier this year. Senate Bill 996 would repeal the program, and institute a 4-cent non-refundable tax on containers. While the goal of the tax is to help provide funding for statewide recycling, the quality and quantity of the recycled glass received through such efforts would be of poor quality. The majority of glass collected in such a manner would end up in landfills, due to sorting challenges at the recycling facilities.

GPI and member companies provided testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 996, which remains in the Joint Committee on Appropriations, awaiting further consideration.

Maine: Earlier this year, the legislature considered Legislative Document 683, which would have removed wine, liquor and larger beverage containers from Maine's bottle bill recycling program. In its place, a 5-cent tax would have been placed on those containers.

GPI provided testimony opposing LD 683, as removal of any existing beverage container type from the bottle bill program would decrease the overall recycling rate, and competitively disadvantage beverage container packaging remaining in the program. LD 683 died in Committee, and is no longer eligible for consideration.