

May 2, 2012

The Honorable David Hiott
Chairman, Environmental I Subcommittee
South Carolina House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee
411 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201



RE: Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) Support Testimony for Senate Bill 461

Dear Chairman Hiott:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturing industry, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 461, which would develop a program for alcohol permit holders to recycle beverage containers sold on-premise. This bill would not only help to keep these valued beverage containers out of landfills, but also provide them an excellent opportunity to return to manufacturers for reuse in a new product. Containers collected in such a manner from existing and similar programs across the country have a significantly increased chance of becoming a new, manufactured product, such as a glass container.

Glass is an endlessly and 100% and recyclable material. Our member companies continuously seek out quality "cullet" (industry term for recycled glass) for use in all of the country's glass plants. For every 10% of recycled glass utilized in the manufacturing process, emissions are reduced anywhere from 4%-10% and energy costs are lowered in the range of 2%-3%. This is due to the fact that recycled glass melts at much lower temperatures than raw materials, allowing glass companies to reduce furnace temperatures.

Collectively, the country's glass container manufacturers operate eight facilities in the Southeast region. Much of the recycled glass melted in these furnaces now comes from outside of that region. This legislation would strengthen not only the supply, but also the quality of recycled glass collected in South Carolina. In addition, it has been estimated that 10 new businesses were created in North Carolina when that state began its bar/restaurant recycling program, to provide assistance in hauling and recycling the newly collected containers. The recycling rate for glass containers has also increased dramatically since that program began.

The GPI and our member companies are ready to partner with processors in and around South Carolina to ensure the success of a bar/restaurant recycling program. Please consider the GPI and our member companies a resource and advocate for effective recycling practices. Thank you again for your consideration of this important legislation.

Best regards,

Lynn M. Bragg
President

cc: Members, South Carolina House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and
Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Ray Cleary

