



April 17, 2018

The Honorable David Deen
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Supplemental Testimony for S. 285

Dear Chairman Deen:

As the Committee considers S. 285 over the next several days, I am writing to ensure the Committee is aware of the value of recycled glass bottles recovered and purchased from Vermont's bottle bill recycling program.

A reason for the success of bottle bill programs is that recovered beverage containers are generally kept separate from other recyclables, drastically reducing contamination, preserving their value, and providing them the best opportunity to return to a manufactured product. This is especially true for recycled glass.

Comments made during testimony last week on S. 285 inaccurately assessed the value of glass beverage containers secured from the state's bottle bill program. **These glass bottles have strong and secure manufacturing end markets.**

Glass bottles redeemed through Vermont's bottle bill program are part of a critical supply chain in the manufacture of glass containers and fiberglass insulation throughout the Northeast. Importantly, these bottles avoid the fate and costs associated with landfill disposal.

Recycling Contamination a Paramount Concern...Except for Bottle Bill Program Materials

Nationwide, the recycling supply chain is experiencing enormous challenges, due to vastly increased quality specifications issued by the Chinese government.

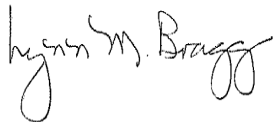
On January 1st, China put into place policies that permit no more than a 0.5% contamination rate for recyclables headed into their country. Largely because of China's policy, municipalities and states around the country have seen increased

landfilling of recyclables, along with substantially lower prices received for recyclable commodities across the board.

Glass, as well as other recyclables collected curbside, are experiencing sorting and contamination related challenges. However, beverage containers collected through Vermont and other states with bottle bill programs are seeing continued end market strength. This is especially important at a time when the recycling industry has placed a premium on material quality.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony highlighting the central role Vermont's bottle bill provides for quality and effective glass recycling.

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

Cc: Members, House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers, and suppliers of materials, equipment and transport to the industry. The industry supplies America's food and beverage companies with glass bottles and jars, directly employing 18,000 Americans in glass container manufacturing and related recycling industries.