



June 5, 2014

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MassRecycle

is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and realizing the vital environmental, social and economic benefits created by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste materials, and by increasing the utilization of recycled products.

To the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy:

MassRecycle, the 501c3 statewide coalition of individuals, all 351 municipalities, recycling and green businesses, and other organizations dedicated to increasing recycling, diversion and waste reduction in the Commonwealth of MA, would like to comment on the Updated Bottle Bill (the "UBB").

MassRecycle continues to support an expanded bottle bill, as bottle deposits have shown to be effective in increasing collection and diversion of beverage bottles. However, **MassRecycle only supports passage of the UBB, or any other bottle deposit legislation, that includes a bottle size limit, which is not currently reflected in the UBB legislation.**

MassRecycle strongly believes that the UBB is first and foremost a litter bill, and thus most applicable to those away-from-home containers under 2-liters that often get tossed on our playing fields, by the roadside, or just into the wrong waste collection container. Use of 2-liter or larger containers usually occurs around the home, where our existing recycling infrastructure provides ample diversion opportunities, whether it be curbside collection, drop-off, or other offerings.

The recycling industry relies on the PET plastic being disposed of at home to maintain the sustainability of their businesses and to keep costs reasonable for their customers, **including the municipalities.** Plastic remains one of the few materials recycled that actually can help offset the expensive cost of properly managing other material streams like glass. This offset from plastic is needed to support the local service providers, the millions of dollars recently invested by some local processors into MA-based single-stream facilities, and the jobs created by those businesses.

Passage of the UBB without a bottle size limit to keep plastic being diverted through local channels could detrimentally impact local recycling businesses, and in turn, the service providers would have to pass costs on to customers and municipalities. Both the existing and the proposed bottle deposit infrastructure do not guarantee that materials collected in state will be diverted to our local, existing infrastructure.

Massachusetts is often compared to other states when discussing recycling and bottle deposits, but unlike many of those states, our local infrastructure is very mature and robust. It is tailored to each municipality due to the fierce independence and uniqueness of our communities. It is market-based and competitive and not specifically driven by state-level mandates or funding. **Any version of the UBB passed in the Commonwealth should reflect that and protect the existing infrastructure.**

MassRecycle strongly believes that a maximum bottle size limit of less than 2 liters will go far in accomplishing that.

Sincerely,

Edward Hsieh
Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Directors

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