



The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

APR POSITION STATEMENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUE: The Repeal of Existing State Deposit Laws

APR POSITION: The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) and its members collectively represent more than 90% of the postconsumer plastics recycling capacity in North America. APR members have a direct interest in the enhancement of postconsumer plastics recycling.

The APR opposes efforts to repeal existing State Deposit Laws related to beverage containers.

Value:

No alternative mechanism has been identified to replace existing deposit laws that would provide a similar stream of consistent, high volume, high-quality supply generated by these programs. The loss of this supply would have significant consequences for the plastics recycling industry and the recycling infrastructure.

Current Legislative Activity: Since 2001, various states including Hawaii, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York have experienced repeal efforts.

Key Messages:

- Repeal of bottle bill laws would be devastating to the postconsumer plastics recycling industry as a significant portion of the supply today comes from these States.
- Repeal of bottle bills should not be proposed without a comparable replacement system to prevent a reduction in the collection rate and the supply of post consumer plastics.
- Expansion of bottle bills should be considered to provide a level playing field for all Plastic Bottles.
- Repeal legislation if implemented will require additional investment in alternative collection systems and funding of this must be considered.
- The effect on municipal collection programs should be considered when crafting legislation.
- Repeal legislation, if implemented, will reduce the quality and inherent value of the plastic waste stream.
- APR will continue to coordinate with all plastic recycling stakeholders to implement various programs to increase supply and improve quality of recyclable material.

Challenges:

- There is a strong lobby against deposits in any form.
- Limited grass roots support from the public and environmental groups.
- Limited individual Industry support.

Key Actions:

- APR Communications: publish this position on the website, offer to outside publications.
- APR Promotion: present position at conferences and other venues as appropriate.
- APR Government Relations: As legislatures propose repeal of Bottle Bills APR will: Write letters of opposition, provide testimony, provide press releases, submit comments for the public record and generate letters from member companies.
- APR Collaboration: Create opportunities with other stakeholders to identify and offer alternative methods to increase supply of the postconsumer plastics stream.