



Testimony in support of
H.2837 An Act to increase recycling in the Commonwealth
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has been a vigorous supporter of the “bottle bill” to encourage recycling by placing deposits on beverage containers since the beginning of this effort in our state. The League was one of the original proponents of the bottle bill back in 1983. We put Coke bottles with flowers in them on legislators’ desks. We worked hard on the 2014 ballot question to expand the bottle deposit system to cover non-carbonated beverages.

We continue to support a deposit system as the most effective tactic to encourage recycling of beverage containers and cut down on the litter these containers cause. We urge that the current system be expanded to cover non-carbonated beverages, whose popularity has increased exponentially in recent years.

Arguments we have been making for almost 10 years in support of an expanded deposit system still apply:

- Deposits reduce litter and increase recycling. Containers with deposits are recycled at a much higher rate than those without deposits.
- Municipalities will save money when these containers are removed from trash collection and by reducing cleanup costs at parks and playground and along streets.
- Pollution of air and water will decrease. Incineration of plastic bottles introduces synthetic chemicals into our environment. Empty water bottles litter our lakes and streams and beaches.
- Fossil fuel resources will be conserved. Plastic containers are made of PET (polyethylene terephthalate), which is 99% petroleum. Products have been and are being developed using recycled water bottles.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges this committee to report favorably this bill to expand the deposit system.

Thank you.