

Date: 10/21/2019  
Martin Naro

NYS Recycling Hearing

Good Afternoon, my name is Martin Naro, President of the Empire State Redemption Association. I am here today representing the voices of over 125 redemption center owners and approximately 20,000 people who are employed through the industry. I am also the co-founder and CEO of Evtek, a technology company that provides AI powered counting and processing machine to redemption service providers.

It must be known that the data is clear, the Bottle Bill legislation has created the most effective recycling system in the world - deposit redemption. Deposit redemption is nearly 10X more effective at recycling post-consumer containers vs our states curbside recycling program. Additionally, material derived from deposit return systems are much more likely to end up back in the circular economy. This is because deposit material has low levels of contamination and high levels of purity, making it inexpensive to clean and pelletize. On the other hand curbside recyclables are highly contaminated and very expensive to clean.

As the state is proposing the roll out of Extending Producer Responsibility legislation we must seriously consider where container producers will receive their rPet feedstock from. Odds are it will have to come from the Redemption system.

I must also state the importance of increasing the handling fee for redemption centers under the bottle bill. With increase in inflation, cost of living and minimum wage, it is imperative that the state increases the handling fee to a minimum of 6-cents per container. Without this raise many of my redemption center members have told me they will surely go out of business within the next few years. This would lead to the collapse of the Bottle Bill and the collapse of reliable rPet feedstock.

I am also advocating for the deposit of beverage containers expand to wine, liquor, sports drinks, coffees and teas. The majority of redemption centers have th